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The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

New Series: Vol. 35—No. 416

August 30, 1954

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Preliminary Examination.—November 17, 1954.

Intermediate Examination.—November 9, 1954.

Final Examination.—November 16, 1954.

Entries for the Preliminary and Intermediate Examinations close fourteen days, and for the Final Examination twenty-one days, before the date of commencement of the Examination.

Full details obtainable from the office of the Board.

360 Swanston Street,
Melbourne.

F. C. KENT, Registrar.

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The next Qualifying Examination
will be held in February, 1955.

Watch this column for further
advice.

P. E. COSGRAVE,
Registrar, Pharmacy Board of N.S.W.

52 Bridge Street,
SYDNEY.

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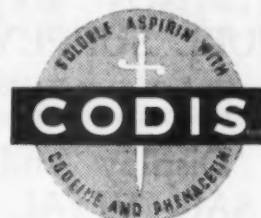
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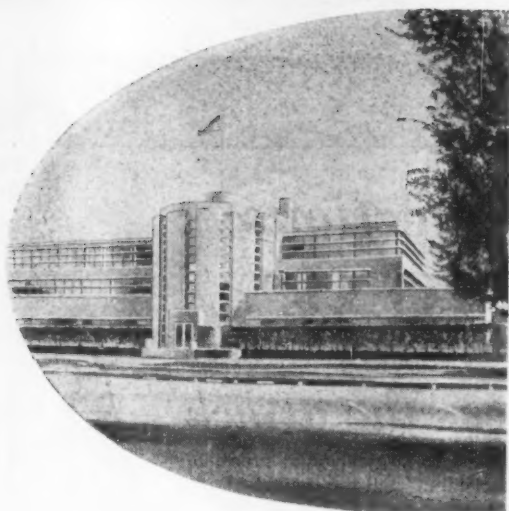
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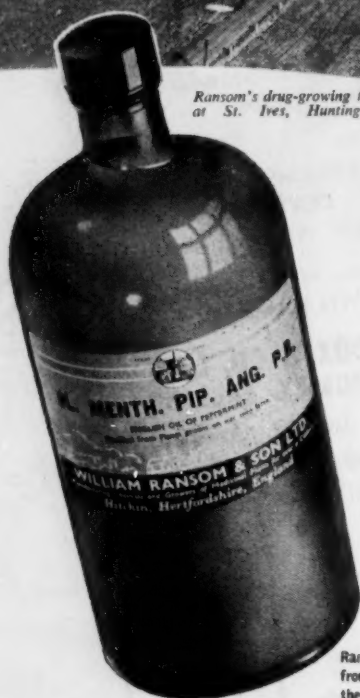
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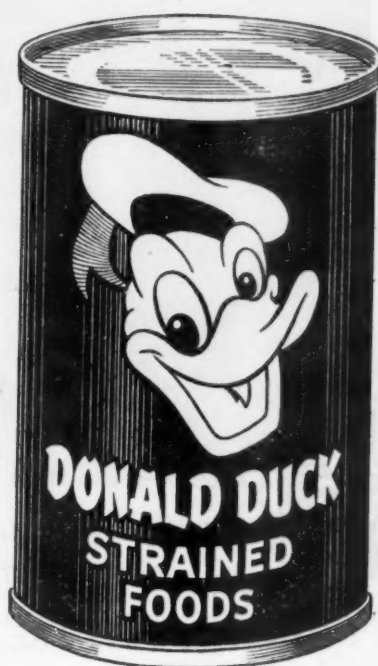
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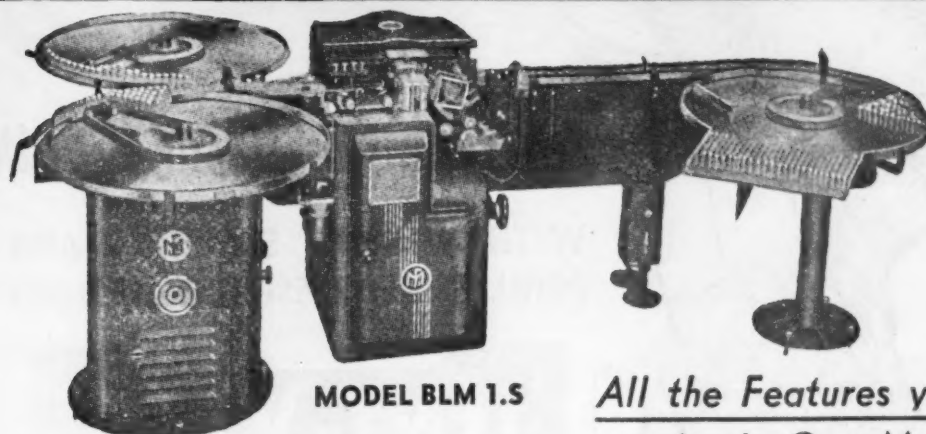
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U.A.3



New Series: Vol. 35—No. 416

Old Series: Vol. LXIX—No. 824

August 30, 1954

Channelling of Prescriptions

NO single feature of the provision of services under the National Health Act has caused more dissatisfaction to pharmaceutical chemists than the so-called channelling of prescriptions.

The fact that 10% of chemists receive 30% of the total amount of dispensing of P.B.A. and P.M.S. prescriptions indicates the inequality of distribution of the work, and presents an explanation for widely differing expressions of opinion as to the benefits accruing to pharmacy from the operation of these schemes.

This uneven spread of business is not entirely due to channelling of prescriptions—a term which appears to denote connivance between a medical practitioner and a pharmaceutical chemist to divert all or an unfair proportion of P.B.A. and P.M.S. prescriptions to a particular chemist concerned.

In any group some individuals will prosper beyond their fellows, even though all start on equal footing and with equal opportunity for advancement. Personality, energy, business sagacity attract success in business, and as all are not equally endowed with these qualities different degrees of progress rapidly become apparent.

In addition, certain other factors apply. A favourable locality, for example, can greatly influence business progress. A pharmacy situated next door or opposite to a busy suburban medical clinic will naturally receive a greater proportion of P.M.S. and P.B.A. prescriptions than one remote from the prescribing centre of the area. But it is not these causes and effects that are troubling many chemists and their organisations today. Some chemists have always cultivated the professional side of their practice, and as a result have become known for the specialised service they provide. These men have, in fact, earned success in a particular field, and their colleagues do not begrudge them the benefits that have accrued to them as a result of their efforts.

There are, however, sinister reports of collusion between prescriber and chemist in some areas. Large bundles of P.B.A. and P.M.S. prescription forms are allegedly sent by certain prescribers to selected chemists of their choosing without any pretence of observing the principle of freedom of choice of chemist.

In some instances it has been stated that prescription forms when leaving the surgery already bore the

imprint of a rubber stamp issued by the Guild only to Guild members.

These procedures smatter of collusion—a form of collusion bringing benefit to one but detriment to others.

Conduct of this kind is contrary to good ethics, offends the principle of free choice which is implicit in the National Health Act, and strikes at the root of Guild policy, under which every member should have equal rights.

Greed alone can be the motive for such unprofessional acts, and where avarice exists is fertile ground for dishonesty. The diversion of all P.M.S. and P.B.A. prescriptions by a prescriber to one particular chemist, where other chemists are available for service, cannot but subject the parties to grave suspicion of improper practice.

Proof of unreasonable actions of this kind is not easy to establish, and consequently it has been difficult to satisfy the insistent clamour of some members for remedial action.

An appeal to honour is wasted on persons whose sense of professional decency is so lacking that they would stoop to meanness so that they gain unfair pecuniary benefits at the expense of their fellow-members.

Complaints of channelling have been heard for so long a period and from so many quarters that they cannot be ignored, no matter how difficult it may be to find a solution to the vexing problem.

Where the practice is suspected, however, the spotlight should be directed. Harm cannot be done by bringing the subject into open discussion at general meetings of doctors and chemists. These can be arranged locally or through the central Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committees which now function in all States. Such meetings provide excellent opportunity for discussing matters of mutual interest; but unfortunately are held far too infrequently.

The matter might also be approached by seeking a general statement by the British Medical Association in Australia, and the pharmaceutical organisations, both Guild and Society, that the practice renders a member of either profession liable to censure and disciplinary action for unethical conduct.

So long as positive action is delayed in dealing with this question, so long will channelling remain and extend.

THE MONTH

KODAK TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP, 1955

The Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies of Australia has announced that the Directors of Kodak (A'asia) Pty. Ltd. have donated the sum of £1000 to be used as a Travelling Scholarship in 1955.

Applications for this scholarship should be in the hands of the **Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society in the State in which the applicant resides not later than October 15, 1954.**

Conditions of the award are obtainable from Mr. A. E. Conolly, Secretary of the Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies, "Science House," 157 Gloucester street, Sydney. Full details will be found in announcement on page 801 of this issue.

Some of the main features are: (1) Each applicant must be a graduate of a recognised pharmaceutical teaching establishment in Australia and be not more than 28 years of age on December 31, 1954; (2) the nature of the project intended to be carried out must be submitted to the Federal Council with evidence of ability to do so; (3) residence outside Australia for not less than 12 months; (4) periodic reports on work being carried out.

GUILD LEADERS IN QUEENSLAND

The Federal President of the Guild, Mr. Eric Scott, accompanied by Mr. Keith Attiwill, Federal Director of Public Relations, visited Queensland on Guild business during the month. They were present at the annual meeting of the Queensland Branch of the Guild, where Mr. Scott was guest speaker. Coinciding with the visit of Messrs. Scott and Attiwill, meetings of pharmaceutical chemists in important centres were convened. Messrs. Scott and Attiwill were accompanied by Mr. W. A. Lenehan, President of the Queensland Branch, on a tour which took in Mackay, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Townsville, Maryborough and Cairns.

The latest news in regard to negotiations with the Government concerning pharmaceutical benefits and Pensioner Medical Benefits was discussed.

Mr. Scott's comments regarding the heavy load of clerical work imposed on approved chemists was widely quoted in the press throughout Australia. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Scott stated that it did not require a person with super-vision to foresee the outcome of competition for the chemists' time and willing co-operation between the demands of his own business from which he drew his livelihood and those of that part of it which involved the Government's Free Medicine Scheme if it became an encumbrance. Mr. Scott said it was not the first occasion on which departmental red tape had threatened to gum up and smother operating private enterprise, but it was probably the first time there had been need for such urgency to un-gum it before the personal welfare of Australians was seriously affected.

ADEQUACY OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION

Leaders of the professions are conscious that technical training alone is not sufficient for the practice of a profession in the modern world.

They said that in many ways professional competence depends about as much on an understanding of the ways of men and of the world as it does on technical skill.

In the light of these criteria there are a number of weaknesses in pharmaceutical education; a lack of attention to the biological sciences, especially biochemistry, to the field of pharmacy administration and to the humanistic and social studies. All these must be overcome if pharmacy is to continue to advance with the other health professions.

(Extract from an address by Dr. L. E. Blaich, Chief for Education in the Health Professions, Department of Health, Washington, U.S.A.)

DOCTOR-CHEMIST RELATIONSHIPS

A Novel Idea.

The "American Professional Pharmacist" for May, 1954, gives an account of a novel idea for developing good relationships between doctor and chemist. Some pharmacists, it is stated, have found that a quiet, secluded lounge located in an easily accessible part of the pharmacy, serves a useful purpose for discussion with local practitioners.

Pharmacist Emerson Fisher, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, has, however, gone a step further by establishing an informal organisation of Ft. Wayne physicians, known as D.O.C.S. (Distinguished Order of Coffee Sippers), which meets irregularly for coffee in the special club-room at the rear of his pharmacy.

Each physician has a membership card and a coffee cup inscribed with his name, which entitles him to drop in for coffee and T.V. viewing at his convenience. In the illustration which accompanies the note in the "American Professional Pharmacist" is shown an array of inscribed coffee cups and files of literature dealing with pharmaceutical preparations, made easily accessible to physicians for reference.

CONTROL OF SYNTHETIC NARCOTIC DRUGS

Medical practitioners have been requested by the Commonwealth Director-General of Health to exercise care in the prescribing of synthetic narcotic drugs.

A letter from Dr. A. J. Metcalfe, Department of Health, Canberra, conveying this advice, is published in "The Medical Journal of Australia," August 28, 1954.

The letter states that the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations Organisation has noted the steadily increasing consumption of synthetic narcotic drugs, and has directed attention to the necessity for strict control over the possession, manufacture, importation, exportation, trad-

ing in and use of such drugs. It has also invited all governments to consider the possibility of carrying out a systematic campaign among members of the medical profession with the object of alerting them to the danger of addiction inherent in the use of such drugs.

A list is given of the synthetic narcotics referred to. These have now been incorporated in the Dangerous Drug Schedules of the various States.

Dr. Metcalfe's letter states that of these drugs Amidone, Dromoran, Heptalgin and Pethidine are the only synthetic narcotic drugs being imported into Australia at the present.

CONTROL OF THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCES BILL INTRODUCED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, introduced a Bill to amend the Food and Drugs Act in the South Australian Legislative Assembly on August 17.

In doing so, he indicated that the definition of "drug" would be replaced by a definition for "therapeutic substance."

This action follows a request to the States by the Commonwealth to provide uniform legislation for the control of therapeutic substances.

NEW GUILD PREMISES IN NEW ZEALAND

Gilseal Limited, New Zealand, has advised the successful flotation of preference shares for the purpose of providing funds for the erection of new premises on its section at Carlton Gore road, Wellington, New Zealand.

According to a report in "The Pharmaceutical Journal of New Zealand," the issue has been fully subscribed.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FOUNDED

At Government House, Canberra, on February 16, Queen Elizabeth the Second, in the presence of the Governor-General, Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, handed to Professor M. L. Oliphant, Director of the Research School of Physical Sciences at the Australian National University, a Charter of Incorporation of the Australian Academy of Science.

The purpose of the Academy, which is to be the Australian counterpart of the Royal Society of London, is to promote, declare and disseminate scientific knowledge, and to establish and maintain standards of scientific endeavour and achievement in the natural sciences in Australia.

The Royal Society has aided the foundation of the new Academy. It will be recalled that it was the result of that Society's initiative in promoting Captain James Cook's expedition to measure the distance of the sun from the earth that Great Britain secured in 1770 its title to both Australia and New Zealand.

In 1952, Dr. D. F. Martyn and Professor Oliphant made a new approach by inviting Fellows of the Royal

Society resident in Australia to become foundation members of a new organisation. The annual meeting of A.N.R.C. that year unanimously approved the Academy proposals and decided to hand over its functions and responsibilities, if the Academy became effective.

Support was obtained from the Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, and a Federal Government grant of £10,000 each year to 1956 enabled the Academy to start its work.

Membership of Academy.

Fellows may be elected annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of science. Headquarters will be at Canberra, but regional committees of Fellows resident locally and local scientists who are not Fellows will foster regional development.

During 1954 the founders will elect 27 distinguished Australian scientists as Fellows to bring the total membership to about 50. It is expected that the number will rise to about 80 during the next five years.

Officers and Council of the Academy are: President, Professor Oliphant; Secretary (A. Sciences), Dr. D. F. Martyn, Chief Scientist, Radio Research Board; Secretary (B. Sciences), Dr. A. J. Nicholson, Chief of the Division of Entomology, C.S.I.R.O.; Treasurer, Mr. H. R. Marston, Chief of the Division of Biochemistry and Nutrition, C.S.I.R.O.; Members of the Council: Sir David Rivett, former chairman, C.S.I.R.O.; Sir Douglas Mawson, Professor of Geology, University of Adelaide; Professor J. C. Eccles, Professor of Physiology, Australian National University; Professor T. M. Cherry, Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Melbourne; Dr. I. Clunies-Ross, Chairman, C.S.I.R.O.; Professor R. J. W. Le Fevre, Professor of Chemistry, University of Sydney.

—Extract from "Australia in Facts and Figures" Number 41.

WHAT IS THE "AVERAGE" CLAUSE IN YOUR INSURANCE POLICY?

("SUBJECT TO AVERAGE.")

Insurance Information from P.D.L.

If you had a fire which destroyed part of your stock, valued at, say, £1,000, would you like to be paid the full amount of your loss?

Total loss by fire is seldom experienced, and some chemists have in a sense gambled on the probability that total loss will not happen to them. In other words, some chemists with a stock of £2,000 may be insured for only £1,500.

Companies with which P.D.L. has had dealings in the various States have not made their policies "Subject to Average," and have paid losses in full up to the amount of the policy.

But beware of the policy which contains the words "Subject to Average." The effect of this clause, in its application to the case stated above, would be to reduce the amount payable under the claim from £1,000 to £750. In other words, where the policy is Subject to Average, it places the chemist in the position of being co-insurer with the insurance company as regards all claims (large and small) for the proportion of the risk which is uninsured.

As long as the policy is not "Subject to Average," the insurance company will accept liability for the whole of the loss up to the amount of the policy.

The effect of the application of "Average" is to make the insured take out cover for the full value of stock, and what is full value today may be inadequate tomorrow, when stocks are increased.

SCIENCE SECTION



EDITED BY A. T. S. SISSONS, B.Sc. F.P.S.

ARTICLES

- Infrared Spectroscopy in Medical Chemistry.
- Some Interesting Containers and Droppers Used in Dispensing Eye Drops in Denmark.
- Discoveries in Therapeutics.
- Preliminary Study of Silicone Oils as Dermatological Vehicles.
- Dextran Sulphates.
- Australian Essential Oil Chemist Abroad.
- A Buffer System for Ophthalmic Solutions of Sodium Sulphonamides.
- pH of Eye Drops.
- Plasma Volume Expanders.
- Recent Opinions on Cortisone.
- Vannevar Bush Speaks on Research and the Future.

INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY IN MEDICAL CHEMISTRY

By A. R. H. Cole.

Nuffield Research Fellow, Department of Chemistry,
University of Western Australia.

Part 2—Practical Aspects.

In the most general form a spectrometer consists of a source of continuous light, a slit, a prism and a detector, with suitable lenses or mirrors for focusing. For ultraviolet and visible light, prisms and lenses of quartz and glass are generally employed, and the resulting spectrum is recorded on a photographic plate, or with a photoelectric cell and pen recorder.

In the infrared region the experimental difficulties are formidable, since the common optical materials are not transparent, and all prisms, windows and absorption cells must be made of large crystals of substances like sodium chloride (rock salt), potassium bromide, calcium fluoride (fluorite) or lithium fluoride. These large crystals are made artificially by melting and slow cooling. Rock salt is the most common material, and is transparent over the whole of the range of wavelengths 2.5-16 μ , which is of greatest interest to chemists. It must, of course, be protected from attack by water, since even about 60% humidity in the air will cause fogging of polished surfaces. Prisms of lithium fluoride (2.5-5 μ) and calcium fluoride (2.5-8 μ) give greater dispersion of the spectrum than sodium chloride, but are

not transparent over such a wide range of wavelengths. Potassium bromide is transparent to 25 μ .

Infrared light is the same as radiant heat, and since these wavelengths cannot be photographed, the spectrum is recorded by sweeping it across a very sensitive thermocouple which converts the heat to electricity. The small electric signal so produced is amplified, and drives a pen recorder, producing a graph such as that shown in Fig. 1 (Part I).

The layout of an infrared spectrometer is shown in Fig. 3. The source N is an electrically heated Nernst Filament or Globar which runs at about 1500-2000°C. The radiation is interrupted by a rotating chopper C, and is focused by a plane mirror M₁ and a spherical mirror M₂ through the sample (usually in solution) at A. The transmitted light is collected by M₁ and directed by M₂ to a focus at the entrance slit S₁ of the spectrometer proper. The paraboloid mirror M₃ sends a parallel beam of light through the prism P, and the dispersed light is returned for a second dispersion by M₃, which can be rotated. Depending on the angle of M₃, one particular wavelength is returned towards M₂ at just the correct angle to be focused on the exit slit S₂ via the small mirror M₄. Light of this wavelength passes through the slit, and is condensed on to the thermocouple T by M₅ and M₆, and produces an intermittent electrical signal (of the order of 1 micro-volt) proportional to the intensity of the light. This signal is amplified by an electronic amplifier which is tuned to the chopper frequency, and then goes to a pen recorder. A continuous record of light intensity

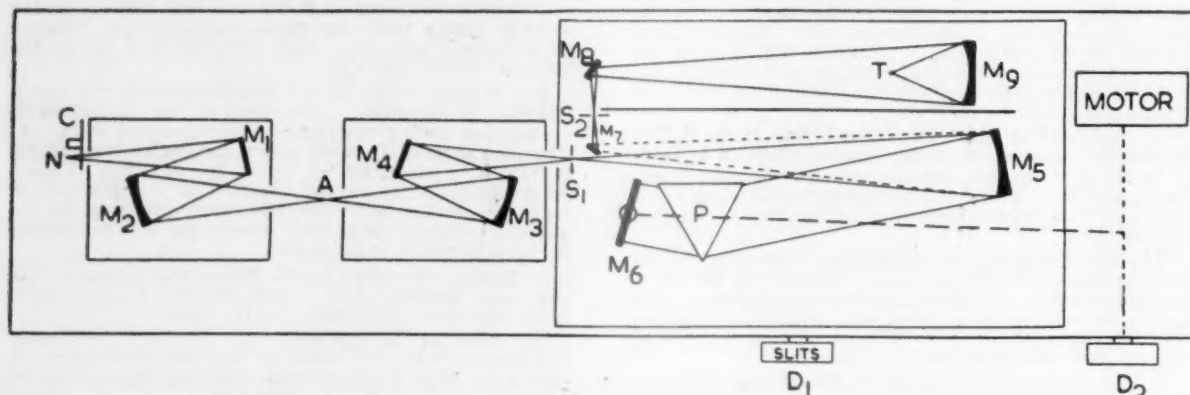


Fig. 3. Arrangement of optics in infrared spectrometer. Rock-salt windows are not drawn.

across the whole spectral range is obtained by slowly rotating M_2 with an electric motor, thus sweeping the spectrum across the exit slit.

The intensity of emission of the infrared light source varies with wavelength as shown in Fig. 4. It will be noticed that the visible light is only a very small fraction of the total emission, and that over the range 2.5μ - 16μ there is a gradual fall off in intensity. In order that the thermocouple signal will not become too small as longer wavelengths are approached, it is necessary to gradually open the slits while the spectrum is being measured. This is done by having the entrance and exit slit jaws coupled together and driving the drum D_1 with a small electric motor, or by coupling D_1 to D_2 which is connected to the motor driving M_2 .

To measure a spectrum it is first necessary to place a cell containing pure solvent at A and record a "background" curve. This will include a certain amount of

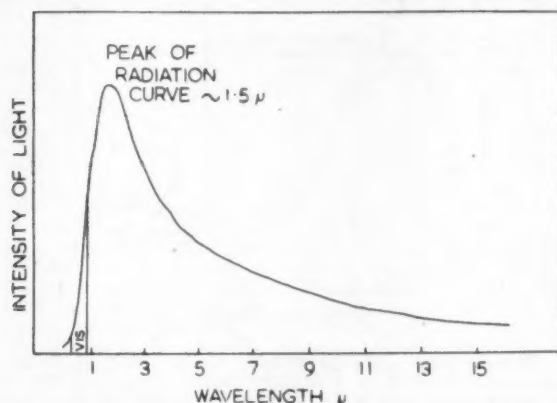


Fig. 4. Graph showing intensity of light emitted by the Nernst Filament as a function of wavelength.

solvent and atmospheric (H_2O and CO_2) absorption. The wavelength and slit drives and the recorder paper are turned back to the beginning, the cell (A) filled with solution, and the spectrum traversed again. The difference between the background and solution curves then gives the absorption spectrum of the compound in the solution.

The above procedure is that used with "single-beam" spectrometers. Recently double-beam spectrometers have been developed which measure the difference (or ratio) between the background and solution spectra simultaneously. These have two beams of light from the source, and two matched cells containing solvent and solution respectively, and each beam is directed alternately through the entrance slit by a rotating mirror. Since the cell thicknesses and light path lengths are equal, the solvent and atmospheric absorption automatically cancel out, and the solute absorption spectrum is obtained directly.

To reduce the amount of light absorption by water vapour in the air, and to protect polished rock-salt surfaces, it is usual to dry the compartments of the spectrometer with phosphorus pentoxide or activated alumina.

Since every compound has an infrared absorption spectrum, it is rather difficult to find suitable solvents which are sufficiently transparent. The number of different absorption bands in the spectrum of a compound is directly proportional to the number of atoms in the molecule, and inversely proportional to the symmetry of the molecule. Therefore in order that the solvent should be fairly transparent, it should have small symmetrical molecules. Now most compounds with small symmetrical molecules are gases at ordinary

temperatures, and the only really suitable solvents are carbon tetrachloride and carbon disulphide. These have the disadvantage that they do not dissolve polyhydroxy compounds very well, but most hydrocarbons, ketones, esters and monohydroxy alcohols are sufficiently soluble in them. Chloroform is rather better from the point of view of solubilities, but has more absorption bands of its own.

Liquids such as hydrocarbons may be studied without dissolving, and solids which are insoluble in the above solvents may be studied either as "melted films" or as "Nujol mulls." A melted film is made by melting a few crystals between two polished rock-salt plates and allowing to resolidify. This is limited to substances which melt (without decomposition) below about $150^\circ C$, since the rock-salt plates are likely to crack if heated to a higher temperature on an ordinary hot plate. Mulls are made by grinding the substance to a paste with Nujol oil and smearing between two rock-salt plates. Wetting the minute crystals with paraffin oil in this manner reduces light scattering and reflection at the surfaces; in much the same way ground or sandblasted glass becomes transparent when wet with water. In the case of mulls, the spectrum will be complicated by the Nujol absorption, but since this is limited to two strong bands in the C-H stretching and bending regions, it is not too serious. Also, these regions may be studied by using a fully fluorinated oil as the mulling agent.

In general, spectra measured in dilute solution are more reliable than those measured on pure liquids or solids, since the latter are likely to be affected by intermolecular effects such as hydrogen bonding. Hydrogen bonding results in a lowering of frequency of O-H and C=O absorption bands. Even in solution a small amount of hydrogen bonding might be found, and in Fig. 1 there is a weak absorption near 3500 cm^{-1} labelled "bonded OH stretching" which is due to interaction between the hydroxyl group of one molecule and the carbonyl group of a neighbour.

By using suitably designed small absorption cells, only a very small amount of material is required for the measurement of an infrared spectrum. Fig. 5 shows

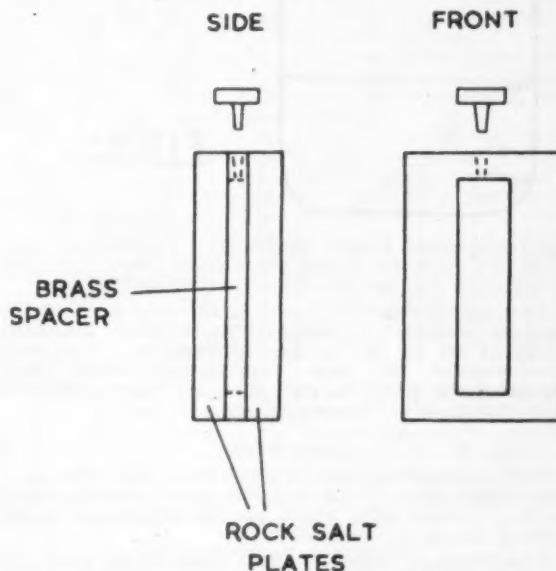


Fig. 5. Infrared absorption cell for solutions.

a small cell made by glueing two polished rock-salt plates to a brass spacer with Seccotine. The cell is filled and emptied with a hypodermic needle through

small holes at the top which may be stoppered to prevent evaporation. Such a cell requires only 1-2 milligrams of solute, and this may be recovered by withdrawing the solution and evaporating the solvent.

SOME INTERESTING CONTAINERS AND DROPPERS USED IN DISPENSING EYE DROPS IN DENMARK

By J. G. Manning, Ph.C., F.P.S., D.B.A.

The following are some interesting bottles and droppers which are being used to advantage by the profession in Denmark. They were observed whilst studying pharmaceutical methods in that country.

Stock Bottle for Storage of Eye Drops.

Although it is unpharmaceutical to keep eye drops after their preparation, certain instances occur where one finds it necessary to make some provision as regards their storage.

The container as shown in Fig. 1 is used freely in Denmark in such instances, and proves most successful

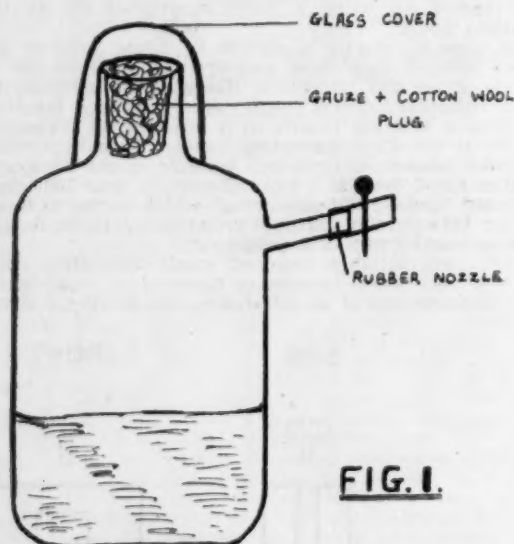


FIG. 1.

for maintaining aseptic conditions. Ophthalmic solutions are kept no longer than seven days, for after this period they are considered unsuitable for use.

The use of these containers is not advocated in the average pharmacy, as the extemporaneously dispensed solutions are by far the best preparation. It is only recommended for large departments where large volumes are handled, and such an extemporaneous preparation would be impractical.

Description.

The container is made of alkali-free glass. The sizes vary from 4 oz. to 12 oz. The glass spout is fitted with a rubber tube which can be effectively sealed with a clamp.

The bottle is loosely plugged with cotton wool and gauze to act as an air filter when some solution is removed. When not in use a glass cover completely covers the loosely-plugged neck of the container.

Solutions can be conveniently filtered into the bottle through paper or sintered glass, with suction being

applied at the nozzle. The whole apparatus can be autoclaved or steamed for the requisite time and at the required temperature.

Eye Drops Containers.

The use of the well-known eye drop bottle with the pipette has been superseded in this country by the following types of droppers.

The main objection found to the pipette dropper was that the risk of contamination was very great with the frequent removal of the pipette. These two droppers were devised to lessen this risk.

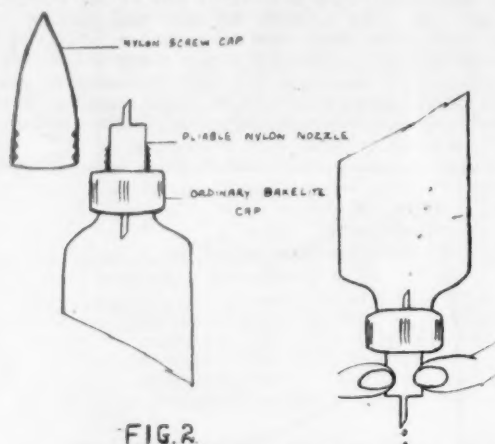


FIG. 2

Type A. Fig. 2.

This dropper can be fitted on the type of bottle commonly known as a dropper bottle. Inserted into a bakelite screw cap is a pliable nylon nozzle on to which screws a nylon cap.

Eye drops are delivered by inverting the bottle, held between the thumb and the forefinger, and by applying slight pressure to the pliable nozzle.

Dropper and bottle are capable of withstanding autoclaving at 120°C. for 20 minutes.

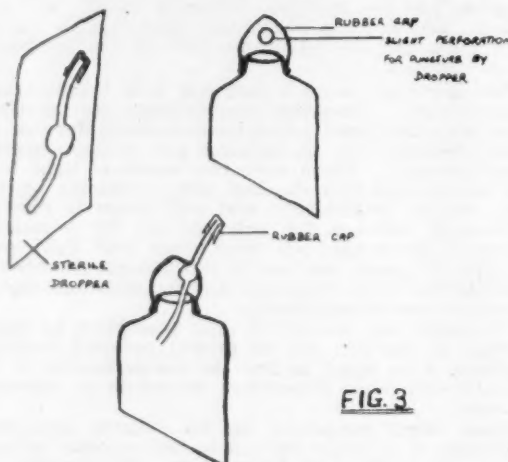


FIG. 3

Type B. Fig. 3.

This dropper is very simple, and is fitted to small vials similar to ones in which penicillin and other antibiotics are supplied.

A small rubber cap seals the vial. This cap has a

small perforation through which the end of the dropper is gently pushed when drops are required for use. By simply inverting the bottle, one or two drops can be instilled as required. A small rubber cap seals off the nozzle when not in use.

Although this dropper is perhaps not as serviceable as Type A, it is most certainly useful where the use of sterile drops is required.

DISCOVERIES IN THERAPEUTICS

Passages from two lectures given at the School of Pharmacy, University of London, by Professor J. H. Gaddum, Sc.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.S., Professor of Materia Medica, University of Edinburgh.

Reprinted from *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, February 13, 1954.

As a complete account of the methods by which all modern remedies are discovered is a task beyond my powers of exposition, I have prepared for discussion a list of 200 drugs, all of which have some claim to be separate and effective remedies. A study of this list confirmed the impression that therapeutics is advancing today more rapidly than ever: the number of remedies in my list which were introduced between 1900 and 1950 is equal to the number introduced before that time. Many really effective remedies were first used at a very early date, but their value was obscured by the fact that they were buried in long lists of other—probably useless—remedies. During the 17th and 18th centuries, drugs were being introduced at the rate of about five per century. In the 19th century, the rate of discovery rose rapidly, reaching 1.6 a year between 1890 and 1900. Since then it has risen to a maximum of 2.7 per year.

Contribution of Various Nations.

I have subdivided the recent data into four groups, according to whether the remedy was first introduced in the British Empire, in the U.S.A., in the German-speaking countries, or in the rest of the world. Since 1910 the British have introduced 23 of these remedies, the Americans 33, and the German-speaking countries 23.

Drugs Introduced Since 1850. British Commonwealth.

Decade

- 1850 Permanganates, bromides.
- 1860 Eserine, apomorphine, phenol, amyl nitrite.
- 1870 Nitroglycerin.
- 1890 Typhoid vaccine, thyroid, strophanthus, hydrogen peroxide.
- 1900 Pituitary extract, carbon dioxide.
- 1910 Pollen, acacia, acriflavine, eusol, chloramine-T.
- 1920 Insulin, parathyroid, peptone, ammonium chloride, cyclopropane.
- 1930 Alum toxoid, typhoid serum, Russell viper venom, magnesium trisilicate, diamidines, stilboestrol, mandelic acid.
- 1940 Antibiotics, cyanocobalamin, D.F.P., dimercaptol, mutagens, mephensin, methonium drugs.

United States of America.

Decade

- 1880 Liquid paraffin.
- 1900 Adrenaline.
- 1910 Dysentery serum, carotene.
- 1920 Scarlet fever antitoxin, liver, vitamin E, nicotinic acid, carbon tetrachloride, tryparsamide, iodophthalein, hexylresorcinol.
- 1930 Progesterone, helium, riboflavine, prostigmine, phenytoin, amphetamine, dinitrophenol.

- 1940 Other antibiotics, dicoumarol, hyaluronidase, folic acid, cyanocobalamin, antituberculous drugs, nalorphine, antithyroid drugs, dibenamine, chlormethane, diethylcarbamazine.

German-Speaking Countries.

Decade

- 1860 Trichloroacetic acid, chloral hydrate.
- 1880 Cocaine, ichthyol, creosote, bee venom, formalin, betanaphthol, paraldehyde, iodoform, phenazone, phenacetin, methylene blue, gentian violet.
- 1890 Diphtheria antitoxin, tetanus antitoxin, urea, X-rays, aspirin, amidopyrine, hexamine, orthocaine.
- 1900 Kaolin, barbiturates, procaine, cinchophen, arsphenamine.
- 1910 Phenylhydrazine, phenolphthalein.
- 1920 Gonadotrophin, suramin, pamaquin, chiniophon, mersalyl, leptazol, nikethamide, bromethol.
- 1930 Estrin therapy, sulphonamides, mepacrine, carbachol, dihydrotachysterol.
- 1940 Dihydroergotamine, isopraneline, methadone, leucanthone, caramiphen, P.A.S., lysergic acid, diethylamide.

The Remainder of the World.

Decade

- 1850 Chrysarobin, curare.
- 1870 Thymol.
- 1880 Rabies vaccine.
- 1890 Cholera vaccine, anthrax serum, vitamin D, thallium.
- 1900 Whooping cough vaccine, radium, trypan blue.
- 1910 Benzyl benzoate.
- 1920 Bismuth, thiosulphate, acetarsol.
- 1930 Vitamin K, vitamin P, anti-adrenalines.
- 1940 Antihistaminics, synthetic curares, disulfiram.

The first 20 years of the present century were not particularly fruitful. Germany still led the world in the synthetic drug industry. The work of Ehrlich, which led to the introduction of arsphenamine, established the importance of the experimental study of the treatment of infections. Apparently the 1914-1918 War stimulated the British more than it stimulated anyone else; their war effort included the first use of acacia in the treatment of shock, and of acriflavine, eusol and chloramine-T, all of which are effective disinfectants for wounds. The most dramatic achievement of the 1920's was the introduction of insulin.

About half the synthetic drugs evolved in the 1920's are examples of the results of research in chemotherapy: carbon tetrachloride, suramin, pamaquin. During the 1930's Germany lost the lead in the therapeutics, although her output was still considerable. She was the first to discover the properties of the sulphonamides, but the activity of sulphanilamide itself was discovered in France, the first derivative more active than sulphanilamide discovered in Britain, and many of the later developments occurred in the U.S.A. By this time the combined output of the English-speaking countries was clearly greater than that of the German-speaking countries.

In spite of the war there was no falling off in the rate of discovery of new remedies between 1940 and 1950. The war itself was a potent stimulus to certain kinds of research, and quite a number of new remedies came more or less directly from work on chemical warfare, such as mustine, dibenamine, dimercaptol and the anticholinesterases.

Development of Antagonists.

One group of discoveries has been based on investigations of the ways in which drugs may antagonise each other. It became apparent that competition is liable to recur between any two drugs which are closely related to one another. This fact was used for the search for new antagonists, and led to the discovery

of drugs that antagonise adrenaline and that antagonise histamine. This theory of competitive inhibition, which was used to explain the action of sulphonamides, led to the discovery of various antivitamin. For example, aminopterin, with the same chemical structure as folic acid, except that one OH group is replaced by NH, competes with folic acid and prevents the formation of new cells in the body. It has been used in the treatment of leukaemia because it inhibits the formation of new leucocytes. Dicoumarol, isolated as the active substance in a disease of cattle caused by the eating of spoiled clover hay, interferes with the clotting of the blood. Its resemblance in chemical structure to vitamin K suggested that these two substances were competitive antagonists. More recently, substances allied chemically to thyroxine have been found to be antagonists of thyroxine.

Dramatic advances have been made in recent years in the chemotherapy of tuberculosis. Derivatives of dapson gave promising results in animals, but were disappointing when tested in man. Streptomycin gave dramatically good results in human tuberculous meningitis, and the methods devised for clinical trials in pulmonary tuberculosis have made it possible for the first time to assess new treatments for tuberculosis in a few months. The *p*-aminosalicylates were discovered as the result of fundamental work in the metabolism of the tubercle bacillus; the thiosemicarbazones were discovered as the result of a systematic search based on the fact that sulphones have some curative effect on tuberculous animals. Isoniazid was discovered in much the same way, but the most important fact that has been established by these trials is that when two remedies are used together the organisms are often less liable to develop resistance to either of them. This discovery may also revolutionise the treatment of other diseases in which the development of resistant strains is a bar to progress. It is possible that the secret of the cure of cancer may lie in the combination of drugs.

PRELIMINARY STUDY OF SILICONE OILS AS DERMATOLOGICAL VEHICLES

Because of the increasing use of silicones in industry, J. B. and E. M. Plein investigated the value of silicone oils in dermatological preparations, and reported their findings in the *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Scientific Edition*, 42, p. 79 (1953). They found that the oils are compatible with cetyl alcohol, theobroma oil, glyceryl monostearate, lauric acid, wool fat, polyethylene glycol 400 monostearate, stearic acid and stearyl alcohol; they are not stable with Carbowaxes, soft soap and glycerin; and they are almost immiscible with vegetable oils, liquid petrolatum, some acids and certain alcohols, including chloesterol.

The authors devised six silicone oil-ointment bases: (1) silicone hydrophilic ointment, (2) silicone cold cream, (3) silicone anhydrous base, (4) silicone absorption base, (5) silicone Gibson base, and (6) silicone glyceryl monostearate base. Ointments which were prepared with these six bases compared favourably with official preparations. The oils were also used to prepare acceptable liniments.

The diffusion rates of iodine, sulphathiazole and a mixture of benzoic and salicylic acids from the six bases were measured. Iodine diffused most rapidly from silicone Gibson base; the diffusion of sulphathiazole was too slight for measurement; and the benzoic acid-salicylic acid mixture diffused somewhat more rapidly from silicone anhydrous base and silicone glyceryl monostearate base.

Since the oils are non-toxic and do not cause irritation when applied to the skin, they should be suitable as dermatological vehicles. However, they produce a

temporary conjunctival irritation when rubbed into the eyes, and the authors warn against their use in ophthalmic preparations.—U.S.I.S. Newsletter, June, 1953.

DEXTRAN SULPHATES

By H. S. Grainger, F.P.S.

Dextran sulphates have been employed as anticoagulants, and have been shown to be suitable for use in man as a substitute for heparin. There are, however, differences in behaviour between dextran sulphates prepared from dextrans of different molecular weight, there being an increase in toxicity with increase of molecular weight. Molecules of molecular weight greater than 40,000 were shown to precipitate plasma proteins, bring about agglutination of platelets and leucocytes, and alter the erythrocyte sedimentation rate. Walton has investigated the mechanism of this toxicity and compared it with that of various commercial heparins. When administered by mouth or absorbed sublingually, dextran sulphate, like heparin, was ineffective and non-toxic. When given intravenously to animals, 6.8 mgm./Kgm. brought about a prolongation of clotting time to three times normal. By other parenteral routes absorption was slower and uneven. In these respects also the dextran sulphates resemble heparin. Equipotent doses of heparin and of dextran sulphates of different molecular weight were administered to rabbits, and their effects on plasma proteins and blood cells were examined. With the large molecular weight compounds a steady fall of plasma protein was demonstrated together with a fall in the number of single platelets and an increase in number of size of clumps of platelets. There was also a fall in the leucocyte count. With a dextran sulphate of small molecular weight (7500) these alterations in the blood were not found. More detailed pathological findings in animals killed by administration of high molecular weight compounds showed concentrations of agglutinates in the liver and spleen. Walton concludes that the toxicity of these substances depends on the formation of insoluble complexes between them and plasma protein, especially fibrinogen. The particles are removed by the phagocytes from the reticuloendothelial system without harm to the animal if the dosage of dextran sulphate is small. With higher dosage the complexes form thrombi in the blood vessels which may be fatal. With compounds of low molecular weight (7500) these complications do not arise. The compounds have an anti-coagulant activity closely similar to that of heparin, and appear to be equally safe for therapeutic use.—The Export Review, May, 1954.

AUSTRALIAN ESSENTIAL OIL CHEMIST ABROAD

A. R. Penfold Honoured.

The following note from U.S.A. appeared in *News from Abroad* in "The Manufacturing Chemist," May, 1954:—

Mr. A. R. Penfold, Director of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences of Sydney, Australia, and winner of this year's annual gold medal \$1000 Fritzsche Award which was presented to him during the recent 125th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, was the guest of honour at a dinner and cocktail party tendered him by Mr. F. H. Leonhardt, Chairman of the Board of Fritzsche Brothers Inc., donor of the Award.

In response to Mr. Leonhardt's cordial introduction, Mr. Penfold expressed his great appreciation of the honour he had received. He reminded his listeners

that, to the best of his knowledge, the Fritzsche Award was the only chemical award that was international in scope. As its recipient, his work had already gained "a new lease of life." He stated further that the favourable reaction stimulated by this great honour would undoubtedly result in the appropriation of funds sufficient to undertake what should, within a few years, lead to a solution of the origin and functions of essential oils in plant metabolism.

He told briefly how in 1924, quite by luck and chance observation, he had examined the leaves of five botanically identical eucalyptus trees while waiting for a tyre to be changed on his car, and had discovered upon crumbling the leaves of two of the trees that their odour was very unlike the odour of the other three. This led ultimately to the important discoveries of Penfold and his collaborators which he calls the physiological variation of plants, or as Dr. E. Guenther in his remarks explained it, "The fact that plants which are absolutely identical, both botanically and morphologically, nevertheless may produce essential oils of entirely different chemical composition."

A BUFFER SYSTEM FOR OPHTHALMIC SOLUTIONS

H. B. Kostenbauder, F. B. Gable and A. N. Martin.
(J. Amer. Pharm. Ass. Sci. Ed., 1953, 42, 210).

Sulphonamide salts are precipitated from 5 per cent. solutions buffered at pH 8.6. Precipitation is not due to chemical incompatibility, but solubility is a function of the pH of the solution. Using a modified buffer equation, it was shown that a minimum pH of 8.97 is necessary to keep 5 per cent. of sulphathiazole in solution, and in practice a buffer of pH 9 should be used to prevent precipitation at ordinary room temperatures. The inclusion of 0.1 per cent. w/v of exsiccated sodium sulphite retards discoloration and prevents the growth of moulds in the solution. The following buffer solution is recommended for the preparation of ophthalmic solutions containing 5 per cent. of sulphathiazole sodium: Boric acid 0.043 per cent., sodium borate 0.42 per cent., and sodium sulphite 0.1 per cent. The calculated minimum pH for 5 per cent. solutions of sulphadiazine sodium and sulphamerazine sodium is close to the pH of a 5 per cent. solution of each substance in distilled water. A buffer is unnecessary, as satisfactory solutions may be prepared by dissolving the substances in water with the addition of 0.1 per cent. of exsiccated sodium sulphite.—J. Pharm. Pharmacol. v. ii. 961 (1953).

pH OF EYE DROPS

To what extent is it worth while to buffer solutions of alkaloids intended for ophthalmic use at the pH considered optimal for pharmacological effectiveness? In an attempt to find a precise answer to this question, Floyd et al. (J. Amer. Pharm. Ass., Sci. Edn., 1953, XLII, 333) have compared the effects on the human eye of solutions of pilocarpine or ephedrine identical except for differences in the pH. The effect of the solutions was evaluated by measuring the changes they brought about in the horizontal pupillary diameters. Each individual test consisted of virtually simultaneous applications of the two solutions, one to each of the patient's eyes. Various pairs of vehicles, differing in strength and formulation, were tested. From a statis-

tical analysis of their results the authors conclude that vehicles of pH near to the physiological optimum have no decided clinical superiority over more acid vehicles unless the acid vehicle offers a strong resistance to neutralisation, and is applied in overwhelming quantity. Even the greatest differences in drug effect attributable to the formulation of the vehicle were only equivalent to a reduction in the effects of pilocarpine from that of a 1 per cent. solution to that of a 0.75 per cent. solution. Thus the relative loss in effect due to a vehicle that is highly resistant to neutralisation, or the relative gain in effect due to a vehicle that is near the physiological pH, is small and of little practical significance. The authors consider their results compatible with the view that the buffer capacity of tears is highly effective in adjusting the pH of ophthalmic solutions to the conditions prevailing in the eye. They think this natural process of adjustment probably favours the absorption of most of the alkaloids commonly used in ophthalmology. The vehicles for them should be formulated so as not to be too resistant to this process of adjustment.—The Alchemist, October, 1953.

PLASMA VOLUME EXPANDERS

By a Medical Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.

United States Army Medical Service has discontinued the use of human serum or plasma. In future, dextran will be used for "intravenous therapy" following convincing evidence of its value. This decision opens up a new field of service for pharmacists which will be further extended when sterilised packages of disposable plastic sets of tubes for intravenous therapy come on the market in Australia as they did in U.S.A. five years ago. A new pharmacy department is being born—the "Resuscitation Supplies Section."

Dextran is one of the groups of intravenous substances which are known as "Plasma Volume Expanders." They all have one feature in common—they are macromolecular. That means that they stay in the circulation for at least 24 hours and are not passed out through the kidneys or into the tissue spaces as isotonic saline does only too readily. The three outstanding P.V.Es. are dextran, P.V.P. (polyvinylpyrrolidone) and human albumen.

There are three reasons for the swing away from serum to the P.V.Es., especially dextran:—

1. **Storage.**—Dextran can be autoclaved or frozen without losing its qualities. In a sealed container it keeps indefinitely at ordinary temperatures. Serum needs cold storage and it slowly deteriorates under any conditions.

2. **Safety.**—Serum carries the risks of homologous serum hepatitis. One patient in 60, a Queensland survey showed, developed the infection within three months of receiving serum. Dextran, P.V.P. and human albumen can be completely sterilised.

3. **Cost.**—Dextran and P.V.P. are a quarter of the cost of serum and a sixth the cost of albumen. That the Government subsidises serum production to the extent of 93 per cent. of the cost in Queensland doesn't alter the price basis. We are no longer hypnotised by "free" medicine. In any case, dextran must surely be included in the schedule of pharmaceutical benefits. If ever there was a "life-saving drug" it is dextran.

4. **Blood Donors.**—The demand for whole blood (for which there is no substitute) is now so great throughout the world that no balance remains for conversion to serum. The blood donor programme has always

been short of requirements in America, except in the victory year of 1945. It would be an act of bad faith with blood donors to continue to take their blood for serum production when another (and superior) material made from sugar is available.

Dextran 5 per cent., in quantities up to two litres in 24 hours, can be dramatic in the treatment of shock and the "first-aid" treatment of serious haemorrhage. It raises blood pressure to normal within 10 minutes, restores consciousness, improves colour, increases cardiac output and pulse volume, and controls skin action.

RECENT OPINIONS ON CORTISONE

The Pharmaceutical Journal (May 22, 1954) remarked: "In view of an improving supply position for cortisone, the publication of a report by specialists on the management of rheumatoid arthritis with that over-publicised hormone is timely. Although the results described seem encouraging, the warning should be heeded that no cure has yet been found for rheumatoid arthritis, and that cortisone must be administered continually. Part of the favourableness of the report is due to the careful choosing of patients to exclude those who had 'psychological incidents in their history,' for the most serious complication of cortisone treatment is psychosis. Apart from cases in which there is the complication of other absolute contra-indications of cortisone therapy, such as tuberculosis, diabetes, hypertension and severe osteoporosis, it is for the clinician to weigh the possible practical advantages of the drug against the possible dangers resulting from long-term treatment. Particularly as the control of side effects appears to need specialised supervision, it is possible that cortisone will never popularly be used by the general practitioner, and it is notable that in a recently published technical report issued by the World Health Organisation (1954, 78) the attention of general practitioners is drawn to the existence of specialist services at the disposal of them and their rheumatic patients. The more conventional methods of treatment such as rest, salicylates, gold salts, etc., are likely to persist in use if the advice of the authors of the B.M.J. report is taken, for they recommend that those drugs should be taken first, as they sometimes give an adequate remission and do not involve the risks of cortisone therapy. The two reports agree that, although cortisone is of use in carefully selected cases, its use is still largely experimental."

The report referred to above was based on experience gained in the Rheumatism Department, West London Hospital (B.M.J. 1954, 1.1109).

Twenty patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis were examined, 14 of them received cortisone for more than two years, and all were treated for at least a year continuously. Although initially none could carry out normal occupations, and all described themselves as "crippled," as a result of the treatment 17 of the patients returned to a working life. The degree of functional improvement varied from case to case, and the effect of cortisone was regarded as satisfactory if work could be resumed, because it was realised that a real cure was unlikely. An initial dose of 100 mgm. cortisone daily was given as a routine, and the patient's response was assessed after about five days. The initial dose was lowered later to 75 mgm. with equal success. Although the maintenance dose was sometimes so little as 25 mgm. daily, the average oral dose was found to be 69 mgm. daily. The authors found that injection of hydro-cortisone (compound F), occasionally, suppressed residual inflammation that might not be ameliorated by low maintenance doses. Most of the side effects that were encountered could be controlled by reducing

the dosage, supervising the diet, or adjusting sodium or potassium intake. However, over a long period they might become sufficiently troublesome to offset the improvement gained. The side effects were divided into two groups: (1) those dangerous to life, and (2) those inconvenient or transitory.

The dangerous side effects included depression (one patient), hypertension (three), gastric complications (three), and miscellaneous, which included, in particular, injection-abscesses until the oral route was adopted. The less serious side effects included obesity, particularly in female patients, who, in general, could tolerate cortisone less well than male. Among miscellaneous effects were minor psychiatric symptoms and minor skin abnormalities.

VANNEVAR BUSH SPEAKS ON RESEARCH AND THE FUTURE

In an address entitled "Today's Research and Tomorrow's World" to guests of the Board of Directors of the Stanford Research Institute at Los Angeles, Dr. Vannevar Bush, reviewing the possibilities of atomic warfare which confront us, said that, whatever the future has in store, whether an atomic war, a long stalemate, or a gradual transition to a more salutary position, for the present we should, by creating strength in the free world, seek to maintain peace and postpone a fully developed impasse. One phase of this, he said, involves building an adequate defence system for the North American Continent, which at present is nearly wide open to aerial attack. This lack of balance is due chiefly to two reasons: First, it has only fairly recently, through technical advances, been possible to ensure a reasonable and economical degree of protection, sufficient to raise doubt in the mind of an enemy as to the success of a single surprise attack. Secondly, the national military planning organisation is short of the sound integrated system essential for national safety. In Dr. Bush's opinion, the United States could have a defensive system which is worth while, without unduly burdening its economy or unwise sacrifice of any other element in its military preparedness, and should insist on having it and the improved military planning. After referring also to the need to make its system of democracy work and maintain vigorously some of its ideals of freedom, Dr. Bush turned to some of the trends in research and development which offer new hope. The blossoming of the biological sciences and their application in agriculture, the opening up of arid areas by solar power, new methods of sterilising and packaging, etc., offer prospects of a breathing space from the pressure of increase in population. Chemical control of mental disease might be a powerful weapon in the war against man's ills. Progress is also being made in the handling of giant molecules which require a new type of chemical thinking. There have been great strides in the development of machines for supplementing and substituting human thought; but this process needs to go much further before we can cope with the complexities of the coming world. Dr. Bush referred specifically to problems of communication in which new techniques of electronic selection, photomicrography and facsimile transmission would replace the conventional library. There is, however, a reason for the search for knowledge which is inherent in the nature of man. His search for understanding is prompted not simply by his immediate needs for food and shelter, but also by his inherent urge to know. Science should be pursued, Dr. Bush concluded, in response to the urge which lies deep in all of us to press on towards greater understanding.—Nature, June 26, 1954.

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES OF AUSTRALIA

KODAK

TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP

1955

The Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies of Australia has pleasure in announcing that the directors of KODAK (AUSTRALASIA) PTY. LTD. have donated the sum of ONE THOUSAND POUNDS to be used as a TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP in 1955.

Conditions of Award

The following conditions for award of the Scholarship have been adopted by the Federal Council:

1. Object of the Scholarship: The object of the Scholarship is to enable the holder to carry out a study of the methods or conditions of pharmaceutical practice (including manufacture), teaching or research outside of Australia.
2. The applicant must:—
 - (i) be a graduate of a recognised pharmaceutical teaching establishment in Australia.
 - (ii) be not more than 28 years of age on December 31, 1954.
 - (iii) submit to the Federal Council the nature of the project he proposes to carry out, together with evidence of ability to do so.
 - (iv) submit the names of two suitable persons as referees.
3. The successful applicant will be required:—
 - (i) To reside outside of Australia for a period of not less than twelve months, and undertake studies, investigation or research in Great Britain or such other countries as may be approved.
 - (ii) To submit to the Federal Council periodic reports on his work at times to be agreed; and a detailed report within three months after expiration of the Scholarship.
 - (iii) By arrangement with the Federal Council to deliver a series of lectures or addresses on his work abroad in two or more States of the Commonwealth.
 - (iv) To give an undertaking that he will return to Australia and remain in active association with pharmacy for at least two years after expiry of the Scholarship.
4. Applications must be addressed in the first instance to the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society in the State in which the applicant resides.
5. The award will be made by the Executive of the Federal Council.
6. The latest date for receipt of applications is October 15, 1954.
7. If in the opinion of the Federal Council no suitable application is received, no award will be made.
8. The Federal Council will lodge with a shipping company nominated by the successful applicant a sum of money sufficient to cover fares to and return from Great Britain or other country in which the Scholarship project is to be carried out, and will arrange for periodic payments of the balance of the £1000. A sum of £50 will be retained and paid to the applicant after submission of his final report to the Federal Council.

Notwithstanding the foregoing requirements, the Council may in its discretion consider applicants whose qualifications are not altogether as outlined above. The Award may be terminated at any time by the Federal Council if there is a good reason.

DISPENSING PROBLEMS

Aminacrine in Polyethylene Glycol Ointment.

The note in last month's journal concerning this type of preparation draws attention to the fact that Polyethylene Glycol Ointment consisting of equal parts of P.E.G. 4000 and P.E.G. 400 is official in the U.S.P. XIV Revision. (Such an ointment base will appear in the new edition of the A.P.F.) The directions given in the U.S.P. are to heat the mixture of glycol on a water bath to 65 deg., remove from water bath and stir until congealed. It has been found that the ointment base takes quite a long time to reach its final consistency, so that stirring could become rather tedious. It is better to set aside the ointment in a cool place, and stir occasionally to prevent crust formation which tends to occur if the ointment is simply allowed to stand without stirring.

If it be desired to incorporate Aminacrine Hydrochloride, it should be noted that it is reasonably soluble in the Polyethylene Glycol 400 so that it should not be necessary to include Glycerin as solvent, as was suggested in the previous note on this subject.

—A.J.C. (Vic.).

Quinidine in Mixture Form.

℞
Quinidin Sulph., 3 gr.
Phenobarbiton Sod., 1/3 gr.
Syr. Prun. Serot., 30 m.
Aq. Ment. Pip. ad., ½ fl. oz.
12 fl. oz.
Sig. ½ fl. oz. ex. aq. t.d.s.

Quinidine is unusual in mixture form. It is used fairly widely for auricular fibrillation.

In the above mixture it is beyond its solubility (1 in 90). It was suspended using 300 gr. of Powdered Acacia. This is a method recommended by the A.P.F. for insoluble quinine salts (25 gr. Pulv. Acac. per fl. oz.).

Any tannate of the alkaloid formed would be suitably dispersed by the acacia. Phenobarbitone was used instead of the soluble form.

—J.D.C. (Vic.).

Leech Repellents.

Being a forestry officer, I was interested in an article in "Nature" (4303), April 19, 1952 (p. 667) entitled "Preliminary Observations on a Repellent for Terrestrial Leeches." The article refers to "Repellent, insect, clothing-treatment, M-1960," consisting of "equal parts of N-butyl acetanilide, 2-butyl 2-ethyl 1:3 propanediol and benzyl benzoate with 10% of emulsifying agent ('Tween 80')."

The writer claims it is remarkably effective in leech-infested forests of south-east Asia, and also comments that dimethyl phthalate is fairly effective but tends to produce sensations of burning when applied directly to the skin.

My own experience indicates that D.M.P. cream needs to be very strong and must be applied lavishly. Foresters in northern N.S.W. used "Disposals D.M.P. cream," which could be bought very cheaply in drums.

Perhaps you could tell me whether the above chemicals are available readily and whether it seems impractical to think of making up the suggested formula for thwarting leeches in temperate forests.

I understand also that a boiling water extract of smoking tobacco painted on clothing is useful. Perhaps some nicotine paint may be just as satisfactory,



assuming it did not seep through damp clothes and irritate the skin.

—A.E. (Vic.).

Inquiry through the regular wholesale channels seems to indicate that the chemicals mentioned are not readily available. However, they may be available in some proprietary form. D.M.P. is not considered irritant, even in 100% concentration on the unbroken skin. It will, however, prove excessively irritating on uncornified areas such as the nose, mouth, eyes or on scratches. It is possible that in creams with high penetrative properties that irritation may occur.

The panel feels that some pharmacists in country areas, who may have had first-hand experience with leech infestations, may be able to help this correspondent with this out-of-the-way yet interesting query.

Sterilisation of Lignocaine Solution.

Could you please advise on a method of sterilising solution of Xylocaine (Lignocaine) for injection?

—M.M. (Vic.).

In queries of this sort correspondents would help by quoting more details of the context of their query—such as strength, volume to be used, etc.

The following notes may be helpful:—

It appears that Xylocaine solutions can be sterilised by the inclusion of 0.1% methylparahydroxybenzoate, dispensing in a multiple dose container, and heating to 100° for 30 minutes.

It further appears that 0.1% methylparaben is the preservative used by manufacturers of solutions of xylocaine hydrochloride.

It could be assumed that if the manufacturer's solution were to be dispensed undiluted boiling for 30 minutes in a closed container would be sufficient treatment. But if further diluted the concentration of methylparahydroxybenzoate would need to be made up to a concentration of 0.1% in the final product.

Zinc Sulphate, Boric Acid and Sodium Sulphacetamide.

As manufacturers of Sodium Sulphacetamide in a pH adjusted form, we receive many enquiries from pharmacists and doctors regarding the compatibility of Zinc Sulphate, Boric Acid, and Sodium Sulphacetamide (A.J.P., January, 1953).

It has been our experience that solutions of Sodium Sulphacetamide can be prepared up to a strength of 30% in the presence of Zinc Sulphate ¼% and Boric Acid, without precipitation, providing that the pH of the final solution is neutral or faintly alkaline.

It must be realised that some samples of Sodium Sulphacetamide are very alkaline, unless a pH adjustment has been made during manufacture.

On the other hand, commercial samples of zinc sulphate are frequently very acid, and in some instances sufficiently so to precipitate sulphacetamide from solution. (Sulphacetamide is soluble 1 in 150 of water.) The precipitate will usually redissolve if the pH is brought to neutral.

It is our opinion that all solutions of sodium sulphacetamide for use in the eye should be of a neutral reaction, both to avoid precipitation, and to avoid disturbance to the pH of the eye fluid.

Fawns & McAllan Pty. Ltd.

Attention is also drawn to a note on this subject by A.J.C. (Feb., 1954), where the precipitate is shown to be Zinc Hydroxide.

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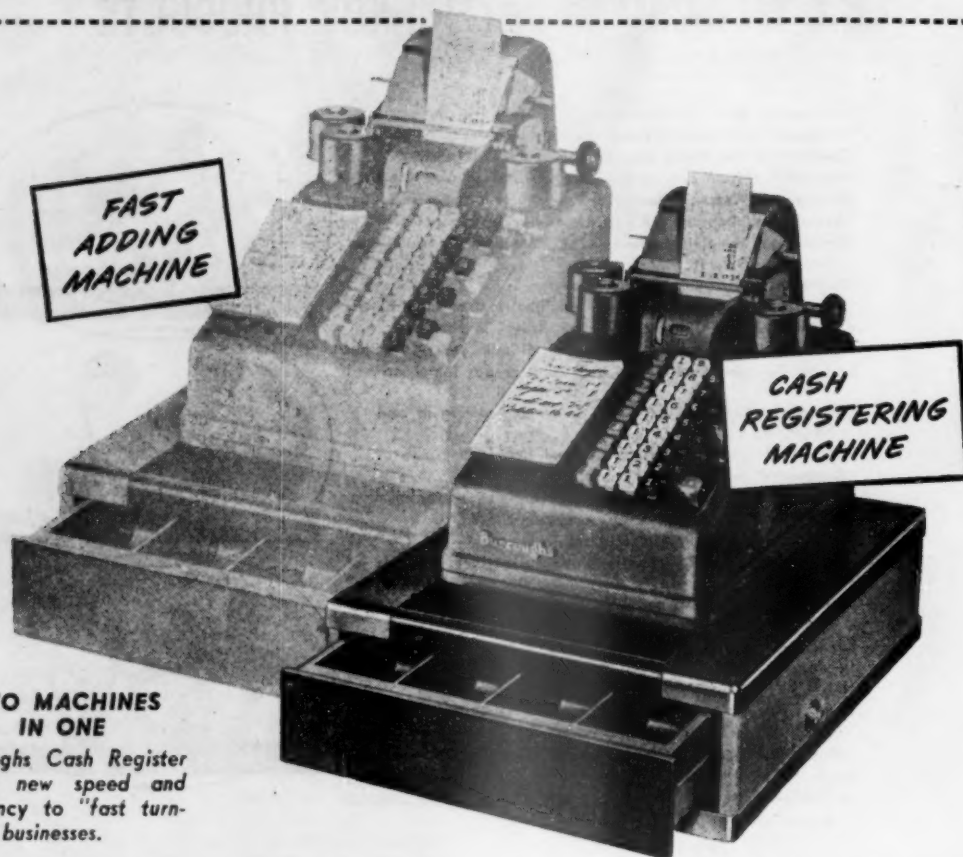
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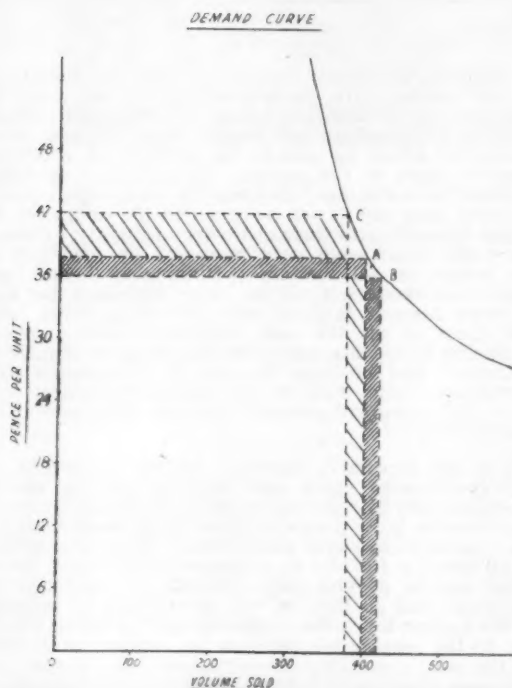
ADDING • CALCULATING • ACCOUNTING • STATISTICAL • CASH MACHINES AND SUPPLIES

Economics of Pharmacy

By H. W. Tomski, B.Com. (Lond.), M.P.S., D.B.A., Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

(4) DEMAND AND EXTENSION OF DEMAND.

When the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain conducted a man-power enquiry in 1950, and subsequently found that 15% of the businesses needed additional pharmacists, the report did not assess the demand for pharmacists. It merely stated the desire or, perhaps, the need for the employment of additional pharmaceutical staff. There must doubtless be quite a number of pharmacists' wives who would like to own a mink coat or a high-powered motor car, but their desire alone does in no way influence the demand for such luxuries, unless, of course, they or their husbands are willing and able to pay the ruling price. Demand, therefore, signifies "the amount demanded at a given price per unit of time." The demand for cosmetics, photographic, health preparations, etc., is "the amount demanded at a price" at any one time, provided that the various factors which influence demand remain unchanged. Economists make also a careful distinction between "extension of demand" and "increase in demand." "Extension of demand" arises if MORE is bought at a LOWER price; an increase in demand is the result of changes in the conditions of demand. In other words, a decrease in the cost of colour-photography is likely to lead to an "extension of demand" (Mrs. X will take more pictures of little Caroline in the bath, because it is cheaper now), while the addition of a new baby to the family is likely to cause an "increase in demand" (more pictures will now be taken, although the cost of colour-photography has remained unchanged).



Assuming that the factors which influence the conditions of demand remain static, the amount demanded at varying price-levels can be recorded. Such a statement is known as the "demand schedule." To aid visual inspection, the amounts demanded can be plotted graphically to produce a "demand curve." By way of illustration, such a demand curve is illustrated on this page.

This curve is constructed retrospectively from actual marketing information relating to the sale of a publicly advertised vitamin preparation. When the product was sold at 3/2, total revenue was equivalent to the area covered by 38, A, 400, 0. A lowering of the price to 3/- led to 5% more of the product being demanded, but actual sales—expressed in terms of money—remained virtually unchanged. A subsequent increase in the price to 3/6 resulted in a contraction of demand by more than 10%; money sales, however, rose by 4%. In practice, demand curves are not easy to construct. It is not always easy to assess how the public would react to an increase or to a reduction in price. To assure a reasonable degree of accuracy, all factors which influence demand must be taken into account by persons who are closely in touch with trade practices and price movements. Generally speaking, however, a lowering of the price will tend to extend demand, although there are a few exceptions to this rule. Dealings on the Stock Exchange tend to increase when prices are rising, and some people will always purchase more expensive goods for their mere "snob-value." A more important exception is provided by some relatively cheap staple commodities. Experience has shown that an increase in the price of bread makes very poor people buy more of it instead of less. In consequence, the demand for other foodstuffs, which are more tasty, but produce fewer calories per unit of expenditure, tends to contract. In pharmacy, the "ignorance of the consumer" is considered the main factor which counteracts the operation of the law. Ignorance of the consumer, we are told by some economists, will make him or her reject a cheaper product in preference to one more highly priced. But is it really true to say that ignorance is the sole reason? Does not, in fact, the confidence which a patient has in a particular brand convert that article into a superior commodity? As pharmacists, we can compare the therapeutic efficacy of pharmaceutical preparations, but often we are at a loss to explain the psychological effect of one particular brand over its competitors. Obviously, the individual patient appears to be a far better judge of the relative merits of different brands, for he is frequently willing to pay more for one pack of aspirin than for another. Furthermore, it is wrong to assume that sheer ignorance is responsible for the choice which a customer might be tempted to make when selecting a more expensive razor. He may be well aware that the more costly safety-razor will do no more than a cheaper model of the same make, but he may still prefer to buy the more expensive variety, because of its pleasing appearance and usefulness as an acceptable present.

More important to the understanding of pharmaceutical economics than some isolated exceptions is the economic concept of "elasticity of demand"; it measures the effect of a small price variation on demand. The question arises whether a customer will, in fact, spend more on, say, photographic films if the price is lower. What will be the responsiveness of demand to a small variation in price? If more is purchased at a lower price, the elasticity of demand for that particular commodity is said to be greater than

unity; demand is said to be "elastic." Conversely, the demand is termed "inelastic" when total consumer outlay is smaller after a reduction in price. The existence of substitutes and individual scales of preferences largely determine the degree of elasticity for most trading commodities; the demand for pharmaceutical services generally is not very elastic. Few patients would take castor oil more frequently or swallow a double dose if the price of the oil would be reduced.

The following table represents the average annual expenditure of an average Canadian family on health care during 1950, and shows that the demand for pharmaceutical services is much less influenced by income than the demand for medical services. Expenditure on physicians' services in the highest income-groups is about double that of the poorer families, while wealthy families spend only about 30% more on self-medication and 40% more on prescriptions than patients in the lowest income group.

Health Care Per Family

Canada, 1950.

Income Group.	Dollars. Medical Services.	Scripts.	Self-Medication.
	\$	\$	\$
Less than \$1,500	26.8	17.3	8.7
\$1,500 to \$2,000	36.4	17.7	9.4
\$2,000 to \$3,000	42.0	19.8	9.5
\$3,000 and more	54.6	24.0	11.1
All Incomes	36.6	18.5	9.4

The demand for cosmetics, on the other hand, is likely to be more elastic. The following figures are quoted to indicate the average expenditure on cosmetics and toilet articles in Great Britain, and to illustrate the effect of different earnings on expenditure. Actual purchases per person with an income of £3 to £5 per week are taken as a basis for comparison.

Relative Expenditure on Cosmetics, Etc.

Great Britain: November, 1949.

INCOME GROUP.	WOMEN.					MEN.		
	Hair Preps.	Dental Preps.	Face Preps.	Others.	Total.	Razor Blades.*	Others.	Total.
£3 to £5	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
£5 to £7½	145	117	107	118	119	107	162	128
£7½ to £10	168	124	150	169	153	108	208	148
£10 and more	177	205	265	206	222	106	226	154

*The section on razor blades also includes shaving soap.

So far the responsiveness of a small change in price on demand has been discussed, and changes in demand have been ignored. The conclusion can be drawn that more will be demanded at a lower price, and for most commodities this dictum is perfectly true. Moreover, this statement does not invalidate Ralph Waldo Emerson's words of wisdom: "If a man can write a better

book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap than his neighbours, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door." There is only one proviso. The world must know about his better mousetrap. Advertising is one of the factors which helps to change the conditions of demand.

PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS

Apologies are sometimes offered for pharmacists because they must engage in trading activities, and opinion is expressed that these commercial functions are incompatible with the pharmacist's professional character. It is very much in the pharmacist's interest to combat this suggestion, for the professional threads of his practice are so closely interwoven with the fabric of the business he carries on that it is difficult to divorce the two functions. For the practice of pharmacy prolonged scientific training is necessary, and in itself it is as much a profession as medicine or dentistry. Possibly, the hospital pharmacist makes more sustained use of his professional attainments than the proprietor of the busy chemist's shop, but these two, with their manufacturing colleague, are all practitioners in pharmacy, and are all worthy of being considered amongst the class of professional workers. The retail pharmacist can incorporate his professional ideals in all the different sections of his day-to-day activities, and has it in his power to reduce to a negligible quantity those purely commercial ventures into which very little professional practice enters.

The exercise of his scientific knowledge and technical skill extends far beyond the actual compounding of a prescription at the dispensing counter. It must begin when he receives drugs and medical and pharmaceutical preparations into his shop, it continues when he advises the medical practitioner on formulation and dosage, and it does not end when at the front counter he

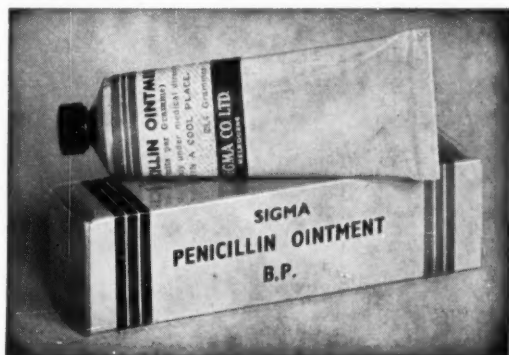
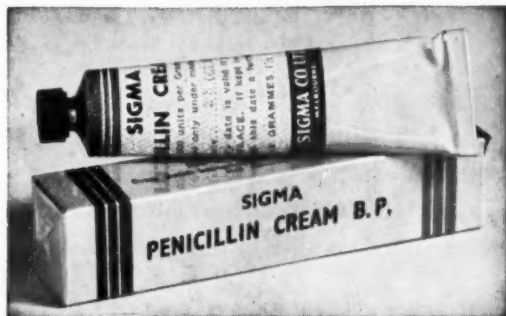
recommends a homely remedy to meet the conditions of the moment. His professional duties are many in number and diverse in character. He must obtain, examine and evaluate all drugs, chemicals and other substances which he uses in his practice, or which he supplies direct to the public. The fact that so many medical products are obtained by him ready compounded does not lessen very much his obligation to satisfy himself as to their character or quality. Indeed, the wider knowledge now possessed by members of the public on all matters pertaining to health and medication renders it all the more necessary for him to make himself familiar with the composition, uses and doses of all the new, largely synthetic, agents constantly being introduced for the purposes of medical treatment, and he must be able to communicate his knowledge about them to the inquiring medical man or to the more enlightened customer who seeks this information.

It is not necessary, therefore, for the pharmacist on any occasion to make any apology for the various legitimate activities he carries on, or to strain overmuch the claim he quite properly makes to be counted among the class of professional practitioners. What is necessary at all times is for him to continue to add to his knowledge and to develop new methods of exercising his technical skill so that he will be enabled to maintain at the highest levels the standards and traditions attaching to the responsible position he occupies in relation to the public service.—Extract from "The British and Overseas Pharmacist," April, 1954.

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Proprietary Medicine Control in Victoria

An article written by Mr. K. G. Attiwill, Federal Director of Pharmaceutical Public Relations, for publication in "The Pharmaceutical Journal," London.

While the five other Australian States rely upon their Health Acts to protect the public against dangerous or misleading claims, Victoria has gone one stage further. The Victorian Health (Proprietary Medicines) Act 1953, which deals specifically with the claims printed upon the labels, is now in operation, though its full effects have not been experienced. The legislation was passed in 1942. For various reasons, successive Governments left it pigeonholed until last year, when it was examined by a committee representing the Government, the pharmaceutical industry, and the pharmaceutical profession. The amending Act which followed is expected to work more smoothly than the original.

The Act provides for the gazettal by the State chief health officer, as soon as practicable after August 1 each year, of a register of proprietary medicines. This will comprise proprietary lines which in the opinion of a statutory advisory committee comply with the requirements of the Act, and have therefore been approved by the chief health officer, Victorian Department of Health. Penalties are fixed for the sale within Victoria of proprietary medicines in respect of which a claim is made, but which have not been approved, and therefore are not included in the register.

The Act does not operate beyond the Victorian State boundaries, yet manufacturers whose headquarters or production works are in another State (e.g., in Sydney, New South Wales, the centre of the drug trade and pharmaceutical industry in the Commonwealth) must ensure that their labels conform to the Victorian law.

United Kingdom manufacturers with substantial interests in the Australian pharmaceutical field may well ask whether the effect of the new Victorian law will be to reduce the number of proprietary medicines on sale through pharmacies?

It is too early to answer positively, because the first register is still to be published, but responsible spokesmen for manufacturers, wholesale warehouses and retail pharmacists in Melbourne think that sales will be fewer.

Typical conjectures are as follow:—

Comment No. 1.—The Victorian Health (Proprietary Medicines) Act 1953 will certainly have the effect of reducing the number of proprietary medicines on sale through pharmacies, although to what extent is difficult to gauge. In general, the proprietary medicines which are no longer manufactured because registration could not be obtained would fall into two classes.

Firstly, old-fashioned remedies which had outlived their usefulness, and whose sales (except in a few isolated cases) were small. In such cases, registration was refused because the ingredients could not possibly justify the claims made for the preparation.

Secondly, those preparations for which registration was refused, because the claims made contravened existing legislation. For example, the Victorian Food and Drug Standards Regulations have long prohibited any claims for baldness, blood pressure, heart complaints, lung diseases, pyorrhoea, ulcers (duodenal, stomach, gastric or rodent), varicose veins, etc. (Regulation 76); any preparation submitted for registration was therefore automatically turned down, because the Proprietary Medicines Act specifically states that no proprietary medicine shall be registered if it does not comply with such provisions of the Health Acts and the Poisons Acts as are applicable.

Thus, in the first class of preparations referred to in the foregoing, there will disappear from the market

an odd Tonic or Blood Mixture, but in the second class entire groups of products will no longer be marketed, such as slimming preparations, hair tonics, and preparations designed to restore manly vigour or lost vitality.

Comment No. 2.—While the number will be slightly reduced (roughly, about 25 per cent.), the volume in time will be increased. Many of the proprietaries which are sold in places other than pharmacies may not be approved. The reputable manufacturer has nothing to fear from the Victorian Act. This is borne out by the number of manufacturers who have commended it.

The manufacturer who subscribes to the British proprietary manufactures advertising code will find that the Victorian Act is far less restrictive than his own code, and much more easily complied with than similar acts in Canada, the U.S.A., or even in places like Spain. If his claims are reasonably honest in the light of the present-day knowledge of pharmacology, and he complies with the requirements of the Victorian Poisons Act and regulations, he need not worry.

Comment No. 3.—Obviously the intention of the Act is to eliminate quack remedies, and, if this is successful, the number of proprietary medicines which can be sold will clearly be smaller, so that sales both by pharmacy and by others must be reduced. Whether the hypochondriacs would switch from non-registered medicines to registered ones is debatable, but I have no doubt that they would. That leaves the gross turnover in packed lines exactly where it was! But the terms of the Act would seem to be so elastic as to give manufacturers little pause. They can, if necessary, modify the claims on the label, but their national Press and radio advertising is not likely to cause them any serious embarrassment within Victoria.

Comment No. 4.—Yes, in my opinion, sales of proprietary medicines through retail pharmacy will be reduced. I am referring mainly to preparations put up by chemists as their own specific for some particular ailment. Some of these have been rejected by the chief health officer on the advice of the committee, because the claims for a "cure" of this or that ailment are contrary to the regulations, or because the ingredients of the preparation, in the committee's opinion, have little or no value in relieving the complaint listed on the claim.

Some retail pharmacists object to the requirement that the ingredients of a proprietary medicine must be printed on the container. For this reason they decline to reveal their secret formula for a preparation that has gained a reputation with the public for its beneficial qualities, and in consequence have withdrawn it from sale over the counter, but are counter prescribing it instead.

A spokesman for the Victorian Health Department explained that it intends to publish a register correct at July 31, 1954. Any applications received up to January 31, 1954 (the date set by the Health (Proprietary Medicines) Act 1953), will be considered for inclusion in the first copy of the Register. Any applications received after January 31 will be included in special registers published as demand requires.

In the trade it is argued that the register should not be published until all applications have been dealt with. It was estimated at the beginning of July that only 3,000 of approximately 5,000 applications have been finalised. Hence the trade view that the register should not be published until all applications have been finally dealt with.

Friendly Society Dispensaries in Victoria Seeking Open Trading Rights

Deputation of Chemists Interviews Minister

Friendly Society Dispensaries in Victoria have renewed their efforts to secure an amendment of the law which would enable them to trade openly with the public in direct competition with pharmaceutical chemists.

This move is being resisted by pharmaceutical organisations, whose members would be seriously affected if the dispensaries were successful.

Hereunder is the case presented to the Chief Secretary, Mr. Galvin, when a deputation, organised by the Guild, waited on him on August 25 to state the chemists' case:

Mr. Norman F. Keith, Metropolitan Vice-President, F.P.S.G.A., said:

The Friendly Societies' Dispensaries—or some of them—which are tax free, and enjoy large discounts, are in a position of privilege as compared with the chemists and other small businesses.

The last attempt—the sixth unsuccessful one—to amend the Victorian Friendly Societies Act to give the dispensaries the right to compete in open trading against the retail chemists, was made in 1946. It was defeated in the Legislative Council.

Since then the Pharmaceutical Benefits Service has operated, and all Friendly Societies dispensaries established previous to July, 1947, may supply "free" medicine to the public in general. Those established since that date may supply to their members and families only. This is known as the "pegging" clause; it was inserted because the Federal Parliament recognised that the friendly societies enjoy privileges—e.g., they are tax-free—not available to private chemists, and that to give them the right to trade with the public generally would place them at an unfair advantage over private enterprise.

In addition to the "free medicine" service, the Friendly Societies movement is now enjoying greatly increased prosperity because of the operations of the Medical and Hospital Benefits Insurance schemes, which have given the movement a new lease of life.

It should be remembered that the "pegging" provision was included in the original Pharmaceutical Benefits Act on the strong advocacy of the Liberals, led by Mr. Menzies (then leader of the Federal Opposition), and it was inserted in the Act by Mr. Chifley's Health Minister (Senator McKenna).

Apart from "free medicine" and the health insurance provisions (all of which are contained in the consolidated National Health Act, 1953), the Friendly Societies and their dispensaries are governed by State law, and that law in Victoria prohibits them from trading with other than their members and families.

We believe that the Friendly Societies as a whole are not enthusiastic about the efforts of a small junta of officials in the Friendly Societies dispensaries movement to persuade the Cain Government to alter the law. And there is no clamour for it on the part of Friendly Societies members, and certainly no demand by the public. Indeed, it is doubtful whether 1 per cent. of the population of Victoria have the slightest knowledge of the attempt, which is being fanned by a few ambitious dispensary officials.

In 1951 the Friendly Societies' Association of Victoria entered into an agreement with the Victorian Branch of the Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia (which consists of over 950 proprietors of family chemist shops, and includes several thousand employees). This agreement provided that in areas not served by Friendly Society dispensaries friendly society

members could obtain their medicines from any retail chemist of their choice, and be reimbursed a substantial portion of the cost of that medicine by producing the chemists' receipts to their local lodge secretary. This system, which came in about the time the British Medical Association changed over from the old "lodge flat rate payment system" to the "fee for service," proved that the Friendly Societies and the Guild were anxious to co-operate in catering for lodge members. It was also taken by the private chemists to be a manifestation of the principle of "live and let live"—i.e., let the Friendly Societies concentrate upon their hospital and medical benefits (which is their logical role, in common with the other benefits they give to their members exclusive of medicine), and recognise the right of the private chemists to dispense medicines for the community—the work they are legally qualified to perform.

A bold attempt is being made by a small coterie of dispensary officials to alter Section 16 (XI) of the Friendly Societies Act 1928.

This alteration should be opposed, because:—

It is unnecessary in the interests of the public.

It is unfair and inequitable to pharmaceutical chemists.

It violates the basic principles of the Friendly Societies movement and the Medical Act, Part III.

It constitutes a dangerous step toward chain and company pharmacies.

It tends to lower the high standard of efficiency and service hitherto maintained by chemists.

It is a trade expansion scheme sponsored by the officials of the Friendly Society dispensaries rather than by their members.

The rights of many Victorian ex-servicemen who have entered retail pharmacy since World War II will be jeopardised. The Victorian Chemists' sub-section of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. is an active body on their behalf.

It is a threat to all retail traders.

The Victorian Parliament has repeatedly rejected this proposal.

And in New South Wales in 1952, when a similar small junta tried to persuade the Cahill Government to increase the number of Friendly Societies dispensaries with open trading rights, the Cahill Government refused to introduce the legislation.

That, too, was a Labour Government. Labour recognised the sterling work of the Friendly Societies movement in its proper sphere—benefits to its sick and needy members—but it rejected the proposal to allow the Friendly Society dispensaries to expand their trading activities at the expense of the private retail chemists.

Mr. S. J. Baird, Honorary Treasurer, Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria:

I speak both as a member of the Guild and as an office-bearer of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria.

This is the oldest Pharmaceutical Society in Australia, having been founded in 1857. Ever since its foundation it has played its part in fostering the Pharmaceutical profession on the highest standards of education, ethics and professional conduct. Originally it covered all branches of organisational work, but since the establishment of the Guild in 1928 the commercial side of pharmacy has been the Guild's prerogative.

The Pharmaceutical Society includes, of course, the registered pharmacists who are employed by the Friendly Societies Dispensaries movement, which, as

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you will readily appreciate, is controlled and run by non-pharmacist and non-professional men.

The present laws give the dispensaries, we consider, a more than reasonable living. The Commonwealth approves them to dispense "free" medicine, but it pegs the number of those that can do this for the public at large to those that were established prior to August 1, 1947; those established since that date can dispense "free" medicine for their members and kindred only. This legislation was passed by the Chifley Labour Government.

In Victoria it has always been the Legislature's decision that the Friendly Societies Dispensaries should continue to provide medicine for their members and members' families, but that they should not be permitted to trade with the public in competition with the retail chemist.

The Pharmaceutical Society is gravely concerned with anything that might open the way to an extension of what we call "unregistered ownership"

I believe that the motive of those who wish to give the dispensaries the right to trade openly is a profit motive—once they get open trading rights they will go flat out to extend their operations—and the result could easily lead to demands by other bodies to establish company pharmacy—thus breaking down the principle of registered ownership by qualified chemists, who have spent time and money in fitting themselves to pass the legal examination.

The move for open trading by the dispensaries seems as if it is being made by a small coterie of dispensary officials rather than all the big Friendly Societies.

The one or two ambitious trade union and dispensary officials behind this present attempt to get the Cain Government to amend the law, and give the dispensaries open trading rights equal to those of the chemists, do not necessarily represent all the big Friendly Societies, but this small junta is fired with visions of great power, and they will try to swing the main body of Friendly Society officials in behind their bid for power.

The Friendly Society members themselves have not been consulted. They have not made any demand for open trading. They are receiving adequate service under the present system.

There Is No Public Demand for This Amendment.

Some of the big executives of the Friendly Societies want to amalgamate, but the individual dispensaries are opposed to it. They say that amalgamation would cause individual officials to lose their identities.

One man said he was opposed to open trading because, (1) the big dispensaries would have all the say, or (2) all their profits would be absorbed by taxation.

The Friendly Society officials in New South Wales in 1952 failed to convince the Labour politicians there of the justice of their claim to be given special legislative rights to squeeze out the private chemists.

We submit that the pressure upon the Labour Party does not come from the rank and file. It is doubtful whether .5 per cent. know it is being exerted. Nor does it come from the majority of the Friendly Societies dispensaries themselves, but from a little group of trade unionists and power-seeking Friendly Society Dispensaries officials. They want to amalgamate the whole Friendly Society movement, so that they will become real big shots, but the smaller lodges are opposed to this, because they would lose their identities.

The move for open trading is not supported by one single argument from the public's point of view. It is merely an attempt by the high-salaried officials to cash in on free medicine and medical benefits schemes.

Mr. D. Crowley, Honorary Treasurer, F.P.S.G.A.:

For a number of years prior to 1951, dispensing doctors' prescriptions for lodge members, in districts where dispensaries were not established, was done by local Guild members on a flat rate basis.

With the advent of "free" medicine, it became apparent, to both the Friendly Societies and the Guild,

that a revision of the whole policy of dispensing for lodge members was called for.

After a succession of conferences with all representatives of the various Friendly Society Orders, a completely new system was evolved, which supplemented the old flat rate system. This new system, commonly known as the pool system, came into operation on December 1, 1951.

The pool system provided the Friendly Society member with a greater range of medicines than was obtainable under the former service, and was designed so that wherever a Lodge member might be he was assured of being able to have his script made up by any local Guild chemist, thus emphasising the freedom of choice so essential in a democratic community.

Under this system, the patient paid the chemist for the medicines dispensed, and was supplied with an official receipt by the chemist after he had indicated the items allowable and not allowable as per the new agreement.

The Friendly Societies, on their part, arranged to form pools in districts from which refunds were made to their members for amounts stipulated as "allowable" on the chemists' receipts.

Friendly Society members paid 8/6 a quarter into the pool, and were entitled to refunds on medicines to the extent of 25/- a quarter, or £5 per annum.

Some local lodge secretaries expressed opposition to this scheme in the early stages, but when they found that the districts operating the pools had added considerably to their net profits under the scheme increasing interest was displayed, and the number of districts operating the pools have increased considerably, and are still increasing.

In fact, so profitable has this scheme proved that many districts have seen fit to reduce their fees and increase the amount of refunds to their members.

Lodge members are happy with this new arrangement, which, coupled with the number of drugs available under the Government "free" medicine plan, provide a good coverage for their medicinal requirements.

Mr. Norman J. Oliver, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Bendigo:

When it is sought to alter an existing law it must be demonstrated that the proposed alteration is necessary in the public interest. The Legislature must be satisfied that either some grave injustice or hardship is being suffered by reason of the existing law, or that some improvement in the general condition of society will be thereby effected. Benefit to one section of the community does not in itself provide justification. It is then the duty of those who seek an alteration of the law to prove the need for it, and need must be shown to be the need of the community.

The proposal of the Friendly Society Dispensary officials obviously involves a fundamental alteration to the law governing the practice of pharmacy, to the actual legislation governing friendly societies, and to the very principles on which such State-aid societies are based.

The Federal Government by the National Health Act provides a wide coverage of life-saving and disease-preventing drugs available to the public generally. These drugs are supplied by the chemists under agreement with the Government, free of charge to the people.

The public therefore could not derive any price advantage in relation to these drugs simply by authorising Friendly Society Chain Drug Stores to distribute them, or isolated Friendly Society Dispensaries.

Concerning medicines not supplied at the expense of the Federal Government, the chemists are quite prepared to supply them to all members of Friendly Societies. In fact, in 1951 the chemists through their Guild signed an agreement with the Friendly Societies' Association (of which Mr. Walmsley is the President and Mr. Nelson the Secretary), to supply lodge patients with medicines not covered by the Commonwealth scheme.

There are in Victoria 1,070 retail chemist shops—703 in the metropolitan area and 367 in the country area—that is to say, one retail shop for approximately every 2,270 of population. They are widely scattered throughout the State. The number of Friendly Society Dispensaries in Victoria is: Metropolitan, 48; country, 8.

Friendly Societies do not and never have provided a comprehensive service even for their own members. Their dispensaries are established only in populous areas. In most country areas, where population is sparse, and in many other areas where it would be uneconomic to set up dispensaries, the chemist in private practice has been called upon to dispense for the members of the Friendly Societies. In the past the chemist has frequently done this upon an uneconomic basis, and has suffered in consequence.

Chemists in private practice provide efficient and adequate pharmaceutical service in every part of Victoria. There is therefore no possible justification for the claim that additional facilities, in the form of "open trading" rights, are necessary.

Mr. C. P. A. Taylor, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Ballarat, a Member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria:

The chemists in Victoria have long prided themselves on the part their members have played through the years as pioneers in new areas. It is a well-known fact that they could not make a living on their prescriptions alone, which is why chemists retail pharmaceutical sundries as an adjunct to their dispensing sections.

These pioneering chemists have shared the risks of the pioneers—where new districts have fallen on bad times, the chemist has fallen with them; where they have succeeded, he has shared in the more prosperous conditions. The country chemist is an integral part of our country cities, towns and even villages.

On the other hand, the Friendly Society Dispensaries pick the populous areas, and under the mothering wing of the wealthy Friendly Society organisations take full advantage of the semi-charitable nature of their operations. They have waxed fat, as any protected monopoly can wax fat when it has unequal trading rights over those in small businesses.

There are only eight dispensaries in the country areas of Victoria, in comparison with 367 chemists in business in Victorian country areas, which shows the complete coverage given by the chemists of Victoria in the field which they have pioneered as a section of the small, sturdy business community which has operated under all the hazards of our free enterprise system.

The Friendly Society member in the small town is dependent on the local chemist, and still would be. Would the dispensaries be able to give the local, personal and immediate service to its members in a small town? No. It would be uneconomic for the Friendly Societies to have a dispensary in each town.

The Pharmaceutical Chemist is a valuable asset in every country district. As proprietor of his own pharmacy and adviser on the minor ailments of the people, he becomes an integral part of the community. He interests himself in civic affairs and in the development of the district. Managers of chain dispensary pharmacies, subject to frequent transfers, and lacking continuity of interest in any particular locality, could not be expected to gain the same intimate confidence of the local people, and thus many country districts would be deprived of the advantages stated.

In addition, the practice of pharmacy would cease to attract the excellent types hitherto adopting that profession.

The small country chemist, with a limited customer traffic, could not compete with a taxation-free dispensary, that would be well able to undercut him, and would possibly be put out of business.

Mr. Les Allen, President, Victorian Chemists' Sub-Branch, R.S.S. and A.I.L.A.:

Three hundred qualified chemists in the State of Victoria returned from war service, and are again following their profession. In 1946, when last we had

to fight the threat of the dispensaries being given open trading rights, Parliament accepted our submission that it would be a poor reward for their war service if, as a result of open trading powers granted to Friendly Societies, they would have to close down their business and become mere employees of large dispensaries, chain stores or large general stores.

Today, Mr. Minister, we remind you of that situation. The strength of our argument applies equally today. It would be most unfair to returned ex-servicemen trainees studying to be chemists. Indeed, the Returned Soldiers' League is strongly opposed to the Bill.

The returned soldiers have a right to expect that the opportunity of re-establishing themselves which was given them after the war is not undermined. They fought for freedom from authority and control.

What outlook will these returned soldier chemists have if the Government grants to Friendly Societies the right to enter into open trading with them, backed as they are with huge capital and substantial bank balances, and relieved from income tax and other taxes, through the protection of this Government?

We returned servicemen chemists are all affected by this proposed Bill. Most of us left our businesses to join the services, some were just about to commence their own. During the war years we painted pictures to ourselves of the fresh start we would make after the war, when once again we would be our boss, free of the muddling bureaucracy of war. Now the war is behind us, we are attempting to make our dreams during the weary war years come true. Many of us started in a district that was without a readily accessible medical service. If the Government gives in to the dispensary bosses, I shall have dispensary competition, which, because of its lower expenses and no taxation, must force me out, either into some other business or, alternatively become a dispensary; all I have worked for will be lost.

You can take a beating from a stronger enemy, but to ask returned men to do so in civil life, and face a competitor favoured by huge capital and free taxation, is neither fair nor just.

We overcame great odds during the war. Are we to be jeopardised again, with no benefit to the community, and our established place in the community undermined?

Will this Bill hurt the finest man in the country—the ex-serviceman? The answer is yes. As a returned soldier, I earnestly appeal to be fair and just to him by at least **preserving** for him the rights he enjoyed before he fought in the last war, instead of **taking** from him those rights and depriving him of his security.

It is so easy to forget our returned men when the years go by.

Mr. K. G. Attiwill, Federal Director of Pharmaceutical Public Relations:

This is the seventh attempt to break down this law. If the previous six were unsuccessful, Parliament over the years must have had a good and continuing reason. That reason must be even stronger today. The Friendly Societies' coffers are full to overflowing with premiums under the Page Medical Benefits Insurance Scheme, and officials are recognising that they must begin to pay back some of this huge income, returning it to the people in the form of more liberal benefits and less restrictive conditions.

The surge of insurance business has given the Friendly Societies a new lease of life. If the Page scheme goes on, the Friendly Societies will go from strength to strength on this bonanza.

What of the Friendly Societies Dispensaries? We submit, Mr. Minister, that we have given sound reasons why their bid for power and wealth should not be entertained by your Government.

We submit that trading by these dispensaries to other than their own members should be opposed by the Government while such dispensaries enjoy their present privileges, giving them unfair trading advantages over ordinary traders. Today the chemists are threatened;

unless the Government resists the noisy claim of the few F.S.D. officials who want to aggrandise themselves, the entry of the dispensaries into full and open retail trading would affect the entire small business community of Victoria, which is often described as the backbone of commerce.

In South Australia there is a "mother" dispensary, with 23 branches throughout the State. In New South Wales the dispensaries are often called "chain pharmacies"—recalling that company pharmacy is prohibited there, or, rather, extension of it, since the £10 million Boots' Drug Company was blocked from its move to establish chain pharmacies throughout Australia.

If the F.S.D.'s get open trading in Victoria, or any extension of it in such States as S.A. and N.S.W., where it is at present "pegged," then Boots would surely want to come in. The F.S.D.'s are controlled by non-chemists, but Boots Ltd. have qualified chemists running their "chains." In England they have relentlessly forced many chemists out of business. Is there much difference between the wealthy Boots combine and the huge Friendly Societies, with their vast reserves, accumulated from the payments of members (many long since dead) over the past decades? If the F.S.D.'s got open trading, how could the Government turn down Boots Ltd.? It would be only another step to company pharmacy from the F.S.D.'s, who are virtually controlled by non-registered men.

The present agitation comes from a few socialistic-minded outside officials, who are using the great and powerful F.S. movement as a stalking horse. We ask the Cain Government not to retreat from the stand, reinforced by various Governments down the years, that retail pharmacy shall be primarily the field of the private chemist, and that no extension of the sale of goods to the general public by dispensaries shall be permitted.

Finally, we suggest that a true reflex of Friendly Society opinion in this country would show that any successful move to tax the F.S. dispensaries to bring them up to a basis of equality of competition with the private chemists, would be resisted on the ground that it would put the dispensaries in financial difficulties.

Mr. Galvin, after hearing the case presented, told the deputation he would put its views before Cabinet, but could give no undertaking beyond that. He added that it was regrettable that the spirit which had led to the formation of Friendly Societies 70 or 80 years ago was gradually disappearing. Friendly Societies had been the basis of community service.

ANTIDOTES TO POISONS

On April 29, Lieut.-Colonel Schofield (C. Rochdale) asked the Home Secretary in the House of Commons, London, if, where the law provided that any poisonous fluid or substance must be marked or labelled "Poison," he would make it compulsory that the antidote to the poison should also be clearly stated.

Sir David Maxwell Fyfe: No, sir. The Poisons Board has advised against the introduction of such legislation.

Colonel Schofield then suggested that, as very few people knew what to do when faced with a poisoning emergency, a precaution of this kind might be the means of saving life, even if the antidote were only a temporary expedient.

Sir David Maxwell Fyfe said that he thought that there were great dangers in the matter because undue emphasis on antidotes might result in the loss of valuable time in obtaining medical help. Barbiturate poisoning, for example, which had been the commonest form in recent years, required immediate hospital treatment, and any delay might be fatal. He hoped that no one would rely on antidotes to the exclusion of getting immediate medical service.—(Extract from "The Pharmaceutical Journal," May 8, 1954.)

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Barbiturate and Other Accidental Poisonings

Acute accidental poisoning by drugs or other substances accounts for more than 1500 deaths annually in the United States. The death rate from this cause—about 1 per 100,000 population—has changed little in recent years, although there has been a decrease in the

Alcohol, ranking second only to the barbiturates as a cause of accidental poisoning was responsible for one fifth of all the deaths in this study. For the most part, these fatalities were attributed to wood and denatured alcohol.

Number of Deaths from Accidental Poisoning by Solids and Liquids
Industrial Department, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company,* 1950-1952

Agency of Poisoning	All Ages	Under Age 5	Ages 5 and Over
Total	277	66	211
Barbituric acid and derivatives	64	4	80
Drugs and medicines (except barbiturates)	67	28	39
Morphine, other opium derivatives	11	—	11
Paraldehyde	5	—	5
Chloral hydrate	3	—	3
Salicylic acid	21	17	4
Oil of wintergreen	12	10	2
Aspirin	7	6	1
Other salicylates	2	1	1
Belladonna, hyoscine	4	1	3
Mercuric compounds	2	—	2
Strychnine	2	1	1
Antihistamine	2	1	1
Other and unspecified	17	8	9

Agency of Poisoning	All Ages	Under Age 5	Ages 5 and Over
Alcohol—total	57	2	55
Wood and denatured	38	—	38
Ethyl	8	1	7
Other and unspecified	11	1	10
Lead	13	12	1
Carbon tetrachloride, benzene, etc.	10	5	5
Kerosene	6	5	1
Caustic alkalis, acids	10	—	10
Lye	4	—	4
Acids	2	—	2
Other and unspecified	4	—	4
Insecticides and rodenticides	11	4	7
Other and unspecified	19	6	13

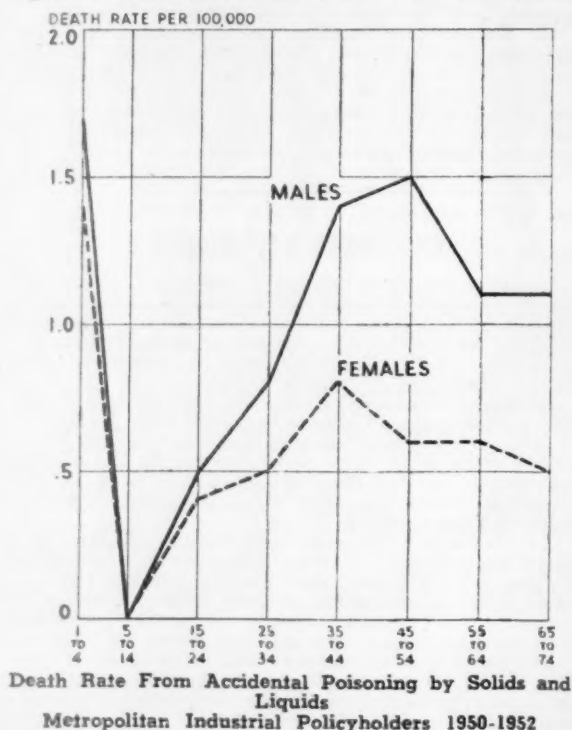
number of deaths from arsenic, lye, mercuric compounds, strychnine, and other poisonous substances. Offsetting this improvement has been an increase in fatalities attributed to barbituric acid and its derivatives. In 1950, there were somewhat over 400 deaths reported in the general population of the United States as due to accidental barbiturate poisoning, about 1½ times the number a decade earlier.

A similar rise in the mortality from barbiturate poisoning has been noted among the Industrial policyholders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Thus, in 1950-1952 barbiturates were responsible for 30 per cent of all the deaths from accidental poisoning among those insured, as the table above shows. With few exceptions, the victims of barbiturate poisoning were adults, those in their 30's and 40's contributing a large share of the total. Women outnumbered men, the ratio in the aggregate being 2 to 1.

A variety of other drugs and medicines accounted for an additional one quarter of the deaths from accidental poisoning in recent years. The fatalities in this group were due in good part to the salicylates—such as oil of wintergreen and aspirin—and to morphine and other opium derivatives; some deaths were also attributed to belladonna, mercuric compounds, strychnine, and antihistamine pills. Almost all the fatalities from salicylate poisoning were among children of preschool age, whereas those who succumbed to other drugs were mainly adults.

Young children accounted for almost all the victims of lead and kerosene poisoning. In most instances, fatal lead poisoning apparently resulted from the ingestion of paint containing lead chewed off old or renovated surfaces. The relatively high proportion of deaths among very young children from insecticides and other poisonous compounds results from their tendency to put into their mouths practically everything they can reach.

The accompanying chart shows, for each sex, the age characteristics of the death rate from accidental



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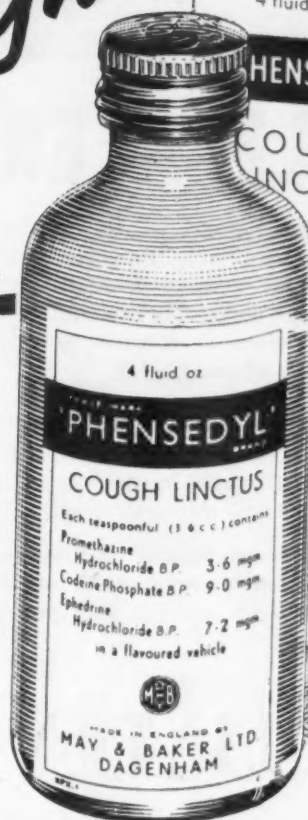
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poisoning. The mortality from this cause is at a maximum among children of preschool age, drops to a minimum at the school and young adult ages, and then rises to a secondary peak in middle life. At each age period, accidental poisoning takes a greater toll among males than among females.

The loss of life from accidental poisoning can be materially reduced. Much can be accomplished by such simple expedients as keeping drugs and medicines in properly marked containers, by storing insecticides and disinfectants away from food or other edibles, and by keeping poisonous substances out of the reach of young children. The barbiturates present a more difficult problem. Greater efforts should be made to acquaint the general public with the dangers inherent in the careless use of such drugs. Further restrictions on the sale of the barbiturates would also tend to reduce the death toll from this cause.

—From "Statistical Bulletin" of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Feb'y. 1954).

BORIC ACID IN CANADA

While the Food and Drug Administration recently gave boric acid a clean bill of health so far as its use in powders is concerned, the product has been banned from Montreal and Toronto children's hospitals. The action at Children's Memorial Hospital in Montreal and at the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital results from reports by Dr. Richard B. Goldbloom and Dr. Alton Goldbloom that 110 cases where applications of boric acid or powder containing it had brought harmful results.—Extract from "Drug and Cosmetic Industry," April, 1954.

LEVELLER OF ALL HUMAN GREATNESS

I had always thought him the kindest and gentlest of men. He was white haired, with a distinguished, pointed beard. I had only met him after his retirement from pharmacy, at a time when he was occupied with the usual hobbies and occupations of leisure.

After his death had been reported, I made some comment about him to a friend of mine. "What, old . . . ?" my friend said. "Why, I knew him 35 years ago—I served my apprenticeship with him. It must be more than 20 years since I last saw . . ."

"What was he like then?" I asked. My friend laughed. "I can see him now," he said. "A tyrant, with a red jutting beard and a fearful temper to match. Many's the time I was knocked to the dispensary floorboards . . ."

I was too astonished to take in much of what followed, and now I can only reflect that, after all, even the boiling stream becomes a majestic, slow river when it nears the sea.—Extract from "The Alchemist," June, 1954.

WHERE ARE CHEMISTS HEADING?

(By "Radical")

The title of this article has often appeared in various issues of the A.J.P. and other periodicals, and would at first sight appear to be a re-hash of an old theme. However, I would like to express an opinion that is of paramount importance to every chemist and every apprentice in Pharmacy. Let us face facts as they stand in Pharmacy practice today.

The Pharmacist's basic training consists of instruction in the art of dispensing (a diminishing necessity by the look of the great number of ethical proprietaries in

vogue). He is also taught to handle carefully drugs which are classified as poisonous or dangerous. On qualification he is unleashed on to the community to earn his livelihood in the best manner he can with the limited means at his disposal (he gets no official business training). As soon as he can muster sufficient capital he opens a shop somewhere (the best spot he can find).

Now what exact qualifications has he to earn his living?

(1) A good knowledge of compounding medicines (a diminishing necessity).

(2) A fair knowledge of a complicated poisons act (people usually don't want to pay for that knowledge).

(3) Some good hints from the chemist to whom he was apprenticed and who possibly may have had the interest of his apprentice at heart. Of course, number 3 could be missing altogether if he was apprenticed to an indifferent type of chemist who took advantage of the fact that apprentices were at least cheap.

Well, he starts in business, assuming points 1, 2 and 3 are in order. He stocks the place up with a large array of patent medicines, toilet preparations, cameras, films, etc., and now has been added cigarettes, toys, stationery, lollies, to say nothing of jewellery, glassware, chewing gum, cutlery and soft drink; yet men have had the temerity to speak of the Profession of Pharmacy.

Let us get it into our heads that Pharmacy is a business, and nothing more, the way it is run today.

Yet there is a need in the community for a man to give sound advice to the public on matters of health (besides a medical practitioner), and this has fallen to the chemist because of a popular misconception that he has been trained to give competent advice. The only degree of competence he possesses is his degree of commonsense (some chemists have none whatsoever) and the little experience he has had at seeing conditions of illness which people possess and what doctors prescribe for them. I may add that in this matter it is sometimes a case of the blind leading the blind.

The solution to this position is quite simple. Either just let matters take their course and in a few years some government will repeal the ban on company Pharmacy and then it will be "good night nurse." The small chemist will have to fold up before the well-fitted, clean combine—the man with the commonsense will survive for a longer period because he will be able to give helpful advice to the numerous personal clients who trust him but who wrongfully regard him as being "as good as a doctor."

Ultimately, however, the larger concerns with bigger display and greater purchasing power will whittle his profits down until economically it will become a doubtful proposition.

There is a solution to this. The chemist should be given sufficient basic training in medicine to enable him to intelligently treat simple everyday ailments which a person has but does not feel a visit to a medico is warranted. I refer to such complaints as unguom infection, common colds, impetigo, removal of foreign bodies from under eyelids, cuts, abrasions, simple burns, common warts on the hands, pediculosis capitis and lots of other similar ills.

Moreover, he should be trained in respiratory symptoms, temperature reading, pulse reading, hygiene, etc., so that he can recognise imminent serious disease and refer people to medical practitioners before serious delay causes greater illness. In other words, he should be taught what he can reasonably treat and what **not** to treat. I feel confident if such were embodied in the Pharmacy course the future chemist would become more and more a community necessity and perhaps in time be known as a professional man.

Most certainly it is doubtful if he would be able to find the time to sell ear-rings or chewing gum. I am sure competent lecturers in medicine could be secured who would give the required instruction to Pharmacy students for the betterment of the community and the chemist.

The Women's Section

Correspondent: Miss A. K. Anderson.

Maybe the weather is responsible. I agree that during the winter months it is much more pleasant to sit by the fire than attend meetings—but it is noticeable that attendance falls off considerably between May and September. Some States apparently just give up and don't hold meetings.

It is rather disappointing, and can even be embarrassing to the Committee, when a guest speaker, usually a busy person, agrees to give up a night to address one of our meetings, and only a small number of members attend.

THE WOMEN PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.

At our general meeting held at the College of Pharmacy on August 5, Miss Caird welcomed members and a few friends they had invited to hear our guest speaker.

Mr. Egan, who was Chief Commonwealth Communications Officer during the Royal Tour, gave us a most interesting talk, from a completely different angle to any we have heard before. He joined the Royal Party in New Zealand and travelled with them to Fremantle, being responsible for all postal, telegraphic and telephonic communications. He always had to be half an hour ahead of the Queen, to test the microphone before her arrival, then stand by during the speeches, before rushing off to prepare for Her Majesty's next appearance. He had a great many amusing stories to tell, and like everyone who came in close contact with Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh, spoke of their naturalness and charm, and untiring devotion to duty.

Mr. Egan also showed us a film, which was taken by the P.M.G.'s Department, showing all aspects of the preparations for the visit—preparations which were commenced over 12 months before the arrival of the Royal Party in Australia—as well as various pictures during the visit. The film also showed the magnificent gift, presented to the Queen by the employees of the P.M.G.'s Department, of a handsome leather-bound album, containing all the stamps issued by the Commonwealth during the past 100 years. This book was presented in a beautiful case made of Australian polished woods. It was most interesting to see this gift being made—in every detail—by employees of the P.M.G.'s Department.

Miss Smalley proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Egan for the very interesting night he had given us, after which we adjourned to the museum for supper.

Our next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2, when we are to have a talk and film on "The Colombo Plan."

THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN PHARMACISTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Due to the mild night on which our meeting was held on August 11, we had a good attendance of members to listen to the talk given by our guest speaker, Mrs. Usherwood, of Yardleys.

After pointing out the main skin types that are present, Mrs. Usherwood then called for a model. Mrs. Ford obliged, and the remainder of the meeting was turned into an amusing couple of hours, as our model did her best to imitate the directions given for beauty care by Mrs. Usherwood, but I am afraid with not the

same ease as the demonstrator, though the final result was a success.

Supper was served and a vote of thanks extended to Mrs. Usherwood for the enjoyable night.

Arrangements were made for a Committee Meeting to be held on September 3, and Mrs. Fairfax, our President, closed the meeting about 10.45 p.m.

Miss Mavis Sweeney, our Secretary, left on holidays during the month, and we hope the couple of weeks, when she is driving to Dubbo and about the surrounding district, will be enjoyable for her.

THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN PHARMACISTS OF QUEENSLAND.

Our monthly meeting was held at the Lyceum Club Rooms. Mrs. Roush, our President, conducted the meeting, and after a short business discussion she welcomed Miss Patricia MacDonald, who was our guest speaker. Miss MacDonald won a scholarship to the Sadlers Wells Ballet Company and now, after further study and experience abroad, she has returned to Brisbane to teach and act as examiner.

Our lecturer maintained that ballet is a combination of five elements, including music, costume, scenery, drama, presented on the stage with the ballerina as the focal point.

She traced the rise of ballet from the French court to Russian classical tradition, with the influence of Petipa and Diaghileff. She then explained that the outstanding characteristic of ballet is not the *toe* (point) dancing, but the "turn out", i.e., the whole of the leg, from the hips, is turned out. This gives a greater number of steps which can be performed more efficiently and gives a better alignment and grace.

Three of Miss MacDonald's pupils then demonstrated the classical steps and poses of ballet, and gave a most entertaining mime, on the commonplace daily shower, "with the hot so hot, and the cold so cold."

Mrs. Carlson proposed a vote of thanks to Miss MacDonald and her assistants, and presented each with a posy of roses.

Supper concluded a very pleasant evening.

THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Our Committee Meeting was held on August 3 at the home of the Vice-President, Mrs. K. V. Read, who served a delightful supper at the close of the business session.

All committee members were present, and the meetings for the rest of the year were planned.

Unfortunately, Dr. Elizabeth Prest will be unable to speak on September 7, but it is hoped that she will be able to come to our meeting on November 2. The September programme will consist of films presented by Parke, Davis & Co. Ltd.

Preliminary plans were also made for the Christmas party, which will be held on Tuesday, December 21.

The Treasurer was very pleased to report that the Association is in a much more favourable financial position than it was at this time last year.

Our best wishes are extended to Miss Athlea Dent on the occasion of her marriage on August 7.



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New Books

"Viruses and Man," F. M. Burnet. Penguin Books.

Sir F. Macfarlane Burnet's book "Viruses and Man," published in the "Pelican" series, is an account in lucid non-technical language of the virus diseases of man, including the methods used in their study, the relationship of virus to cell, and natural and artificial immunity to virus disease. A virus is defined as "a micro-organism responsible for disease, which is capable of growth only within the living cells of a susceptible host—and which is normally considerably smaller than any bacterium." The writer says that he is "something of a heretic" in holding that "what viruses do and how they do it is very much more important than what they are." Therefore, the question whether they are "really" living organisms is answered in the affirmative after only a brief discussion, and their biochemistry is not discussed in detail. However, there is an illustrated chapter on their physical nature. As in his earlier, more technical book, "Virus as Organism," much stress is placed on the variability or mutability of viruses, and the practical effects of this, e.g., the disastrous influenza epidemic of 1918-19, is ascribed to "some accident of mutation or recombination that gave rise to a virus of unusual invasiveness and capacity to spread."

In discussing the evolutionary origin of viruses, the writer supports the theory of their derivation, by degenerative evolutionary processes, from larger micro-organisms, such as protozoa or bacteria, the complete dependence of the virus on the metabolic activities of a living cell being an extreme adaptation to the parasitic mode of life.

Individual chapters are devoted to the following virus diseases:—Herpes simplex, poliomyelitis, including a short postscript on gamma globulin and polio vaccines, influenza, the common cold, German measles in pregnancy, psittacosis, smallpox and vaccination, and yellow fever and dengue. The treatment of these topics is enlivened with a wealth of detail, mainly historical, but also ecological, designed to elucidate the circumstances which favoured the spread of a particular virus at a particular time and place.

The pharmaceutical reader will be specially interested in the discussion of the accidental contamination of batches of Yellow Fever Vaccine with the virus of serum hepatitis, which led to 80,000 American servicemen being infected with jaundice in 1942. The moral is drawn that immunisation with a living virus is not without danger, though sometimes unavoidable. More generally, Sir Frank urges care with the use of any medical procedure—he cites blood transfusion, X-rays and potent synthetic drugs—which is unlike anything that the human body has met, and therefore become adapted to in the course of evolution. One is not surprised to find a concise discussion of the advantages of the chick embryo for the virologist, the author being one of the pioneers in the use of this technique. But, although the present B.P. mentions the membranes of the chick embryo in the preparation of Smallpox Vaccine (formerly "Vaccine Lymph"), the writer points out that in this case the method has never been developed on a large scale, mainly because the older method, using calves, is satisfactory, though less elegant and slower.

This is a timely book. It brings some of the recent work of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, especially on influenza, before the public; it shows that the picture of "miracle drugs" rapidly wiping out human disease is very misleading, partly because chemotherapy is relatively ineffectual against viruses, and partly because micro-organisms can counter-attack; bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics, and the influenza vaccine effective against one type of 'flu virus may be use-

less against the virus prevalent in the very next epidemic. Moreover, mutation and natural selection, which explain the above phenomenon, have led to the emergence of quite new virus diseases. (Examples are mentioned.)

The book is timely in still another respect: it poses questions somewhat similar to those which arose in connection with the recent case of Dr. Oppenheimer in the United States. Discussing the ethics of delaying publication of work on dengue fever, Burnet asks: "Where is all this detailed study of problems, which from the practical human point of view have been solved, leading us? Is it worth doing?" . . . "There may be an international reputation for the successful investigator, but one can wonder whether there will be any other use made of his facts than to help in forging some new weapon for the hands of those in a position to dominate their fellows. . . ."

"Viruses and Man," F. M. Burnet. Penguin Books. —G.L.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Codex—Volume I. By B. Mukerji, Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. Published by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, India, 1953. Pp. 431. Price in India, Rs. 12/-.

This is the first publication of its kind concerning the indigenous drugs of India, the compilation of which was commenced in 1947.

Following the publication in that year of the *Indian Pharmacopoeial List* (which recognises standards for some Indian drugs, and provides the beginnings of the first national pharmacopoeia of India), a resolution was passed by the Pharmaceuticals and Drugs Research Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of India, to compile an Indian Pharmaceutical Codex along the lines of the British Pharmaceutical Codex and the United States Dispensatory, to contain up-to-date information concerning the important indigenous drugs of India.

The aim of the Indian Pharmaceutical Codex was to be, as stated in the preface, to focus attention on the need for intensive research in indigenous drugs, and to serve as a guide to research on such drugs.

The work of compilation of Volume I has been admirably carried out by Dr. B. Mukerji, with the help of his colleagues at the Central Drug Research Institute at Lucknow, and was published in 1953.

In general, the arrangement of the subject matter resembles that of the British Pharmaceutical Codex and is arranged in two parts.

Part I consists of General Monographs on natural products and drugs of vegetable and animal origin.

The monographs are arranged in alphabetical order under Latinised names, with their English equivalents and any synonyms.

Full descriptions of the biological and geographical sources of the drugs are then given, and the pharmacognostical characters, both macroscopic and microscopic, of the crude drugs obtained from them are described in detail.

Descriptions of the drugs are followed by their chemistry, pharmacology and uses, under the headings of constituents, and action and uses; also doses, preparations and any adulterants and substitutes commonly encountered.

Standards for identity, purity and assay are also given. These have been taken from the Indian Pharmacopoeial List, and are stated in an abbreviated form.

Part II consists of formulae for galenicals and other preparations of drugs described in the Codex.

There are two appendices, which deal with the biological assays of Prepared Digitalis and Tincture of Digitalis, employing the cat or guinea-pig.

The book contains a general index, also an index of the common vernacular names of the drugs.

This book should achieve the aims of the publishers, which are to encourage the use of drugs of Indian

origin by medical practitioners, who hitherto have hesitated to prescribe such drugs, due to lack of standards for many of them; to bring about uniformity in preparations manufactured by different pharmaceutical firms; and to encourage the substitution of indigenous drugs for drugs at present imported into India.

A most informative book, well bound, and easy of reference, which should stimulate the interest of all pharmaceutical chemists in drugs of Indian origin.—E.M.W.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

"Chemist and Druggist" Annual Special Issue of June 26, 1954.

This finely produced annual has recently come to hand, and contains many specially written articles of general interest. Dr. Charles Singer contributes a historical record entitled "The First Pharmacopœia," Oxford, which will this year be host city to the British Pharmaceutical Conference, is graphically described in the article "City of Learning."

Of particular interest is a beautifully illustrated contribution by Miss Agnes Lothian, under the title of "Bird Designs on English Drug Jars," while a collection of illustrations of old chemists' labels forms the basis of yet another special article.

This is a journal to be read as much for pleasure as instruction, and maintains the high standard set by previous special issues of the "Chemist and Druggist."—F.H.B.

"A General Survey of the British Pharmacopœia, 1953." Pps. iv and 44 (The Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1). Price 4/6 sterling, plus 3d. postage.

In this booklet is presented in summarised form a series of five lectures given by members of the British Pharmacopœia Commission in late 1953.

The scope and general layout of the Pharmacopœia is dealt with in an opening article by the Secretary of the Commission, Mr. T. C. Denston, B.Pharm., F.P.S., F.R.I.C., and reviews changes in title and the abandonment of Latin names in favour of English names as the main titles. Weights, measures, doses and the more important changes in strength of some B.P. preparations are commented upon. Reference is made to the doses of drugs for specific purposes, e.g., the inclusion of a dose for the treatment of thyrotoxicosis under the monograph on Sodium Iodide, etc. Mr. Denston's remarks give the reader an enlightened appreciation and a firmer grasp of the new form the B.P. has assumed.

From the general the booklet passes on to the particular, and the four articles which comprise the remainder are:—

Chemical Substances, by Professor W. H. Linnell, M.Sc., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.P.S., F.R.I.C.

Pharmaceutical Preparations, by Professor H. Berry, B.Sc., F.P.S., F.R.I.C., Dip.Bact.

Applied Pharmacology, by Professor A. D. Macdonald, M.A., M.Sc., M.D.

Biological Specifications and Standards, by Professor A. A. Miles, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Each of these writers has a different approach to the Pharmacopœia; each is an acknowledged expert in his particular sphere, thus giving an authoritative and comprehensive outlook to the survey.

Some of the many points of interest made in the articles are:—

The increasing use of light absorption measurement as a method for identification, or determination of purity, or as an assay.

The specification of weight and diameter of implants, a standard made necessary by the fact that rate of dosage in implants is a function of the surface area.

A tentative list of drugs (some already well established) for possible inclusion in the next edition of the B.P.

The difficulties inherent in setting up standards for active drugs whose chemistry is as yet beyond precise specification (e.g., biological preparations, preparations of human blood, etc.).

This book should prove to be an invaluable aid to pharmacists and students alike in their better understanding of the reasons underlying the many changes in the British Pharmacopœia.—F.H.B.

History of Indian Pharmacy, Vol. I, by G. P. Srivastava, M. Pharm., with a foreword by Dr. George Urdang, D.Sc., Ph.G., pps. xvi + 276 (Pindars Ltd., Calcutta 20. Rs. 12/8).

This book, now in its second edition, marks a significant advance in our knowledge of the history of pharmacy in India. Mr. Srivastava has devoted some considerable space to the formidable task of fixing dates in early Hindu history. The difficulty of establishing dates of events which took place 2000, 3000 years or more ago is a problem to be contended with in all histories and the author has made an honest appraisal of the widely differing opinions held by various authorities on Indian history. The reviewer feels, however, that the inclusion of a comparative chronological table of Indian historical pharmacy and Sumerian-Egyptian-Greek-Arabic historical pharmacy would add considerable value to the earlier chapters of the work.

Dr. Urdang in the foreword points out that "the dates are important mainly with regard to the question whether the Greeks and later the Arabs have been influenced by the Indians or the reverse." Mr. Srivastava subscribes to the view that Indian medicine influenced Greek medicine most probably at the time of Alexander the Great's eastward expansion to the western and north-western part of India. Even if it were possible this is not a matter one would wish to disprove; but would there not have been a common exchange—a general fusion of culture (and with it, pharmaceutical knowledge) between Greek and Indian at the many outposts which Alexander established in north-western India?

The history, which commences with the Rigveda—probably the oldest literary document still in existence—continues through the Yajurveda and Arthavaveda to the time of Charaka and Sushruta. Around these two great names much of India's medical lore has crystallised, and it is from here on that an historically documented phase in Indian Pharmacy begins to appear.

The chapter on the medieval period (500 A.D. to 1600 A.D.) gives a basic description of the Ayurvedic system of medicine (which still has many adherents in India and Ceylon), and is followed by "The Early Pharmacy," wherein are discussed the drugs in the Charaka-Samhita, the Sushruta-Samhita, the Buddhist literature Mahavagga and the well-known Bower manuscript. Early pharmaceutical processes, formulae, weights and measures, toxicology and the introduction of the pestle and mortar also form part of this most interesting chapter. The quotation from Holwell's paper, "Account of the Manner of Inoculating for the Small-pox in the East Indies," which was read before the members of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in 1769, shows conclusively that inoculation against Smallpox was practised in India many years before Jenner achieved success in England (1796).

A transition period between the 8th and 12th centuries A.D., when complete dependence on the Charaka-Samhita and Sushruta-Samhita was partially replaced by a branching out into the use of chemicals—particularly arsenic, mercury and gold and their salts—is the main theme in the chapter on "The Medieval Pharmacy." (A parallel but later transitional period in western medicine is found in the disputes between the Galenists and the Helmontians.)

The closing chapter of this first volume comprises a

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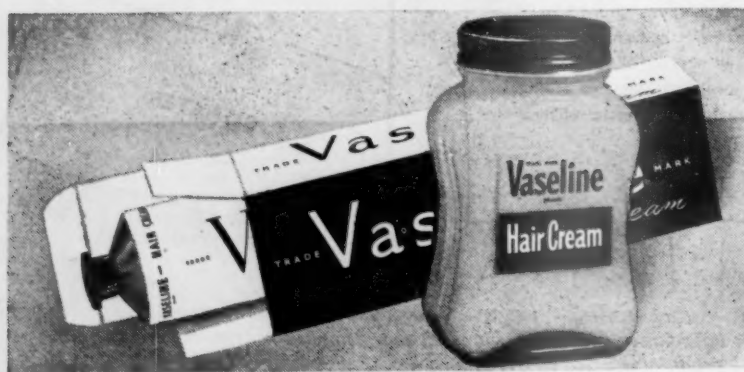
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summary of Indian, Greek and Arabic influences during pharmacy's formative period.

The work is well indexed, with numerous cross-references and an exhaustive bibliography.

New histories of pharmacy are few and far between and therefore doubly welcome; their compilation is an arduous task involving much tedious research, and Mr. Srivastava is to be congratulated on the production of this notable addition to our knowledge of the subject.—F.H.B.

Readers' Views

To the Editor.

These columns are open for the free discussion of any matter of general interest to Pharmacists. Letters under a nom de plume may be published; but each correspondent must furnish his name and address as an evidence of good faith. It must be distinctly understood that the opinions expressed by our correspondents are not necessarily endorsed editorially.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Sir,—Your comments on the manner and method of testing P.M.S. prescriptions by the Commonwealth Health Department make very sorry reading, revealing as they do, both directly and by implication, great lack of administrative vision by the central pharmaceutical authority at Canberra and the Committees of Enquiry.

It is the duty of these committees to note the analytical procedures and to insist that such procedures take into account all the factors which may influence the report.

An analyst follows his "brief." If this brief is so worded as to restrict a report giving the whole truth, the duty of the pharmacist members of the committee is to insist on an alteration.

Some years ago research indicated that the BP 1914 method of assessing the alkaloidal content of Cinchona (using $\text{CA}(\text{OH})_2$ as a precipitant) was only 50% effective as compared with the use of a soluble alkaline precipitant. Perhaps, Mr. Editor, similar inefficiency has occurred in the examples you have given of conflict between report of Governmental and private analysts. Please note the honesty of Governmental analysts is not impeached.

An English example illustrates this point. A well-known firm of chain store chemists was prosecuted for selling Potassium Carbonate (Salt of Tartar) with an excess lead content. The salt was retailed in 1 oz. bottles and the official analyst had truthfully reported that the samples tested were defective. He had followed his brief and consequently had not investigated to find the cause and the whole truth, which was that the Potassium Carbonate was of correct purity when bottled but that the lead content of the bottle glass was the contaminant. The charge was dismissed by the Court.

In every criminal trial involving analytical evidence the defence subjects techniques and procedure to close scrutiny. To this at least we pharmacists are entitled.

Some seven years ago when negotiations with the then Government were fluid and pharmacists were neutral (wrongly, I suggested then) towards the medical profession, Mr. Maurice Super and this writer unavailingly asked that limits of tolerance and the manner of assessing remuneration be defined by Clauses in the Act and not by regulation or subsequent negotiation. Statutory limits of tolerance, requiring as they would a revision of dispensing procedures, will entail a greatly increased dispensing fee to be paid.

In this writer's opinion legal advice should be ob-

tained as to whether a conviction for inaccurate dispensing not involving fraud could be upheld on appeal.

Before considering the Regulations and the Act we may note that no recognition of service well done has been accorded to pharmacists, manufacturers or wholesalers. The very few cases which have occurred of non-ethical conduct have been made the excuse for more punitive regulations, more press statements by Government officers as to the wealth pharmacists are acquiring from the National Health Services. Mr. Athol Townley, sometime Acting Minister for Health, even went so far as to say publicly he had never known chemists so prosperous. The times are prosperous, and so is every retailer and manufacturer. This person was indeed most combative when questions of remuneration of pharmacists were referred to him.

Now contrast his conduct to the air lines, when he, as Minister for Civil Aviation, was asked to approve increased rates and fares. He accorded them respect, referred the matter to the appropriate committee, which approved. Why the difference, Mr. Townley?

Now, sir, consider the Regulations. The penalties listed are unnecessary. Their introduction is petty and in general the effect will be to subject the chemist to needless humiliation and worry. The requirement that the authorised chemist must personally sign the back of every repeat authorisation accepted is typical of the absurdity to which "Regulateese" may go.

Typical of their outlook is the excursion of these gentlemen into the international sphere. The Regulations officially recognise the A.P.F., B.P.C., B.P. (48 and 51) and the U.S.P. The status of the B.P. is limited to the 1948 edition and the 1951 addendum, while the U.S.P. is unlimited, "being the latest edition for the time being" or "that edition as affected by those additions or amendments." Having thus defined the current U.S.P. Revision (the 14th), which is the latest edition, the Regulations proceed to deem the weights and measures for the purpose of the Act to relate to the table of weights and measures known as the "Apothecaries' Table of Weights and Measures" that appears in the 12th Revision of the U.S.P. The 12th Revision of the U.S.P. was issued in 1942, since replaced by the 14th, which gives official recognition to the Metric System only. But if the 12th Revision, U.S.P., does give the ounce 480 grains, it gives the pint only 16 oz. Now must we adjust the labelling, say of N.H.S. P.B. inhalations to indicate that the patient must inhale from a pint of 16 oz. of boiling water (penalty £10)?

Or, more serious, can the Auditor General deny any payments to the pharmacist for P.M. P.B. prescriptions which are not expressed in the Metric System?

Guild officials, Society officials and all rank and file pharmacists should insist that action be taken in the High Court to protect the good name of pharmacists and their rights as human beings. I am sure, Mr. Editor, that the A.J.P. will open a contributing fund to defray such cost and to give expression to rank and file feeling.—Yours, etc.,

SYDNEY HULL.

Glen Iris (Vic.).
August 26, 1954.

[Committees of Inquiry are set up to find facts, hear charges and recommend action to be taken when allegations of wrong practice or misconduct are made. They are not to defend or condemn those called before them. Composed, as they are, of pharmaceutical chemists of great experience in their profession and the intricacies and pitfalls of pharmaceutical politics, Mr. Hull and his colleagues throughout Australia may be assured that no chemist will be unjustly dealt with as a result of a Committee of Inquiry's action and that where serious malpractice has been proven appropriate action will be taken.

Mr. Hull's suggestion that a Defence Fund be started through the Journal involves questions of policy which require consideration by the Board of Management before a decision is made.—Ed.]

ANALYSES OF P.B. AND P.M.S. MEDICINES

Sir,—The urgent need for immediate revision and amendment of the "machinery clauses" of the Act relating to sampling, analysis and reporting on medicinal "scrips" is further stressed by reports received by well-known chemists, showing results of analyses which were in accord with the amounts of drugs prescribed and dispensed.

A possible reason for differences in results reported by analysts (official and independent) is the fact that capacity of bottles reputed 8 oz. and 16 oz. has been shown to be up to 9 and 17 oz. This means that a half-fluid oz. (tablespoonful) analysed from 9 oz. medicine container in a reputed 8-oz. bottle, must necessarily falsely indicate approximately 1 oz. deficiency of drugs originally prescribed for a half-oz. dose. This contention is supported by evidence obtained from analysis of a "scrip" for mist. phenobarb and sodi bromide, requiring sodi bromide 10 grains to half oz.

A pharmacist was charged with having dispensed 9 grains per half oz. instead of 10 grains sodi brom. The scrip was for 16 oz. by measurement of the part left with the pharmacist by the "authorised person" who presented the "scrip," established that this part was in fact eight and three-fifths ounces. Analysis yielded results that were in accord with the scrip, specifying 10 grains sodi brom. in half oz.

The chemist concerned with this charge has stressed to the committee of inquiry, which met on August 18, the importance of bottles being made to an accurate volume capacity for chemists' use.

Not unreasonably, the purchaser of medicine who received 8 oz. in a 9 oz. bottle would believe that short measure had been sold; so the bottle is filled to 9 oz., and the whole balance of the drug content of a half fluid oz. is upset. A Commonwealth analyst condemns the mixture for being 1 grain of sodi brom. short in a half oz., and bang goes a chemist's reputation for honesty and skill.—Yours, etc.,

ALBERT H. KOCH.

Melbourne, 30/8/54.

DO DISPENSING FEES PAY?

Sir,—I wonder how many pharmacists realise just how depressing the financial position of pharmacy is today. Much has been said of the professional nature of pharmacy, but nothing is heard of the poor return for providing these professional services.

The qualified chemist employee is badly paid comparatively with butchers (£16/10/- per week) and truck drivers (£15 approximately), when qualifications and responsibilities are taken into consideration.

However, the master pharmacist is much worse off comparatively than the assistant or manager.

In fact, I will go as far as to say that, taking into consideration capital invested, the qualifications required, hours worked, responsibility carried, plus the extra worry given by various government departments, that no other trade or profession gives such a poor financial return. It is ludicrous to think that a pharmacy gives a smaller monetary return than a milk bar of the same capital value.

The cause of this position appears to be that chemists have not kept up with the times. For instance, gross profit has fallen from approximately 50% on purchases in 1948 to approximately 30% in 1953.

Margins on patent lines have decreased and dispensing fees are hopelessly out of date.

Fees for dispensing have not kept up with the increase of other fees for services, e.g., table:

	1939	1954	Increase %
Haircut	£0 1 0	£0 3 3	225%
Disp. Fee., 8 oz. Mint	0 1 6	0 2 6	66%
Assistant Dispenser's Wage (48-hour Week)	5 10 0	18 19 0	244%
		(40-hour week)	

If dispensing fees are doubled, it would still be only a fair return, and this increase must also be on Government scrips.

The Guild and the Assistants' Union could well work together on this problem.

We, as chemists, must act now, unitedly and fearlessly, to obtain this much-overdue increase.

I also think that the Guild might well set up a special committee to examine margins on patent medicines and sundries, and see if a plan can be worked out to increase that all-important margin.

Pharmacy must awake and act now, before it is too late.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN REBBECHI.

Murrumbidgee, Vic., Aug. 21, 1954.

THE GUILD AND THE N.S.W. PHARMACY BOARD ELECTION

Sir,—The amazing action of the N.S.W. Committee of the Guild in supporting two of its members against another two members in the recent Pharmacy Board elections is exceeded in audacity only by the misstatement of fact regarding Mr. K. Cartwright's service on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of N.S.W.

The circular sent to Guild members told them that Mr. Cartwright had been a Councillor of the Pharmaceutical Society for a period of 20 years! And the fact is that Mr. Cartwright was elected to the Council in 1947 (v. "A.J.P.," 1947, p. 352), which would give him not more than eight years' service as a Councillor.

If the Guild Committee feels it imperative that its members should take an active interest in the Board elections, it should be open in the matter, and truthful, too. Why could it not have sent out a circular revealing the full facts, namely, that both Mr. Harding and Mr. Hudspeth are Guild members, and that Mr. Hudspeth and Mr. Leggo were the retiring members of the Board?

And one can see in the Guild Committee's action a snub to Mr. Hudspeth. Just as a politician of many years' service is ruthlessly cast aside without the chance of appeal, by an inner group, so, too, has Mr. Hudspeth been given the "persona non grata" sign by the Guild Committee. And the less said about the straining of relations between the Returned Servicemen's Sub-branch and the Guild over the Guild's opposition to Mr. B. Williams the better.

The Guild Committee has done a grievous wrong to Pharmacy. The country members particularly depend upon the guidance of the Guild in their attitude to ballots and elections. Having been sadly misled this time, what guarantee have they for the future that they will be given all the facts?

The question of the authorisation of the circular, and the decision to use Guild money and facilities to support Mr. Cartwright and Mr. Leggo, is one that will be brought up at the next annual meeting.

For the time being, then, let every Guild member, and prospective member, too, receive with great caution pronouncements by the Guild Committee, which has shown itself to be so precipitate in its actions.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN P. BRIDGE.

7 Burwood road, Belfield, N.S.W.

August 18, 1954.

[A copy of the above letter was forwarded to Mr. A. E. Conolly, Secretary of the N.S.W. Branch of the

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Husbands in aprons were suddenly scarcer

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A large slice of the credit for this promotion must go to "The Australian Women's Weekly," the magazine in which detergent advertisers last year spent more than six times as much as in all the other women's magazines (8) and daily and Sunday newspapers put together.

Nearly £1,000,000,000 a year is spent in retail stores by "Australian Women's Weekly" families. That's why this magazine is easily the leading choice of national brand-name advertisers. Knowing this you can see that the way to direct more "Australian Women's Weekly" readers into your store is to "tie-in" at every opportunity.

Whenever you see an advertisement in "The Australian Women's Weekly" for a brand-name line that you stock, clip out the ad. and feature it with special counter and window displays while the advertisement is current.

Source: Calculated from estimates supplied by A. C. Nielsen, Advertising Research Services, the Commonwealth Statistician and C.A.R.A.'s surveys.

The Australian **WOMEN'S WEEKLY**

Guild, who has replied: "The only comment necessary is that the Guild's action was in conformity with the constitution and rules."—Ed.]

LISMORE FLOODS: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HELP

Sir,—On behalf of the members of the Lismore Pharmacists' Association, I would like to express profound appreciation to manufacturers and wholesalers who rendered invaluable assistance following the devastating cyclonic flood which laid waste our city on February 20 this year.

Damaged stock was replaced and/or reconditioned and in some cases financial assistance was given by the following friends of pharmacy:

Abbott Laboratories Pty. Ltd.
Andrew's Laboratories.
Allen and Hanburys (Australasia) Ltd.
Australian Cellucotton Products Pty. Ltd.
Addis (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Bonnington & Co. Ltd.
Bristol-Myers Co. Pty. Ltd.
British Drug Houses (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
British Medical Laboratories Pty. Ltd.
Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (Australia) Ltd.
W. M. Clarry.
Colgate-Palmolive Pty. Ltd.
Coty (England) Ltd.
Clinton Williams Pty. Ltd.
D.H.A. (N.S.W.) Pty. Ltd. (at that time Elliotts and Australian Drug Pty. Ltd.).
E. C. De Witt & Co. (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Edinburgh Laboratories.
J. C. Eno Pty. Ltd.
Fassett & Johnson Ltd.
Faulding & Co. Ltd., F. H.
Fawns & McAllan (N.S.W.)
Gillette Safety Razor Co. of Aust. Pty. Ltd.
H. J. Heinz Co. Pty. Ltd.
Richard Hudnut Pty. Ltd.
Hillcastle Pty. Ltd.
Johnson & Johnson Pty. Ltd.
Charles McDonald Pty. Ltd.
J. McGloin Pty. Ltd.
May & Baker (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Max Factor & Co.
National Brush Co. (Australia) Ltd.
National Chemical Products Pty. Ltd.
Nestles Food Specialities (Aust.) Ltd.
Nicholas Pty. Ltd.
Ortho Pharmaceutical Co.
Parke, Davis & Co. Ltd.
Paul Duval (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Potter & Moore (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
Reckitt & Colman (Australia) Ltd.
Rexona Pty. Ltd.
Frederick Stearns & Co. (Division of Sterling Drug Inc.)
Sigma Co. Ltd.
Salmond & Spraggon (Australia) Pty. Ltd.
H. C. Sleigh Ltd.
R. D. Toppin & Sons Pty. Ltd.
Vincent Chemical Co. Pty. Ltd.
Whitehall Pharmacal Co.
William R. Warner & Co. Pty. Ltd.
Wholesale Drug Co. Ltd.
Yardley & Co. Pty. Ltd.

To all these people we extend our sincere thanks.

Yours, etc.,

H. B. FRITH,
Secretary,
Lismore Pharmacists' Association.

August, 1954.

Legal

VICTORIAN POISONS ACT

Unauthorised Persons in Possession of Specified Drugs.

In the City Court, Melbourne, on July 29, Aro Herpe was fined £3 on each of five charges, with £10/18/6 costs, for having been illegally in possession of Specified Drugs.

Doreen E. Herpe was fined a similar amount on each of five charges, and total costs of £11/8/8 were awarded against her.

The charges arose from a visit by an inspector of the Pharmacy Board and an officer of the Police Drug Bureau to the premises of Cu-Ex-Ma—National Skin Institute. Evidence was given to the effect that a number of Specified Drugs were found on the premises.

In the same Court on July 29, Kathleen McMullen was fined £10, with £11/3/ costs, for having been illegally in possession of a Specified Drug, namely, anthisan tablets.

A similar charge relating to possession of anthisan cream was withdrawn.

The prosecution was a sequel to a visit by an inspector of the Pharmacy Board and an officer of the Police Drug Bureau to the premises of Klexema Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.

Evidence concerning the finding of the Specified Drugs in possession of the defendant was given by Senior-Detective D. Ritchie.

A charge concerning illegal possession of anthisan cream by Klexema Pty. Ltd. was withdrawn, and two other charges were dismissed by the Court without costs. The reason given by the magistrate for the dismissal was that there was no proof that the place where the drugs were found was the premises of the defendant company.

FORGERY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS PRESCRIPTIONS

R.A.A.F. Man Given Bond.

Francis Basil Fazackerly, aged 28, appeared in the Camberwell (Victoria) Court, charged under the Dangerous Drugs Regulations with having forged a doctor's signature to obtain dangerous drugs for his own use in September and October, 1952. Police witness stated that during 1952 Fazackerly was stationed at "Frog-nall" R.A.A.F. Base, Mont Albert road, Camberwell, and that during his time as medical orderly there he wrote prescriptions for drugs listed in the Sixth Schedule to the Poisons Act 1928, signing for them in the name of a medical officer.

Fazackerly pleaded "Not guilty" to eight charges of having forged the signature of Dr. Ernest Danby, Medical Officer for "Frog-nall," during 1952.

Senior-Detective D. S. Ritchie, of the Police Drug Bureau, Melbourne, told the Court that Fazackerly was working as an orderly at St. John's Hospital, Hobart, when arrested, and had a good record among doctors there.

Fazackerly was committed for trial at the Melbourne General Sessions on August 2, bail being fixed at £80.

At the conclusion of the case in General Sessions, Melbourne, on August 25, Fazackerly was released on a £10 bond to be of good behaviour for five years by

Judge Cussen.

Frank Basil Fazackerly, 28, of Duke street, Hobart, unemployed, had pleaded guilty to eight charges of having forged the signatures of the medical officer of the day to get drugs, while he was an orderly at Frog-nall, the R.A.A.F. station, in Mont Albert road, Canterbury, Victoria.

Judge Cussen had earlier remanded him for sentence to obtain a report from the Government medical officer to see whether Fazackerly had broken himself of the drug habit.

Fazackerly claimed he had now freed himself of drug addiction.

Sentencing him, Judge Cussen said if Fazackerly ever got the drug habit again, he would suffer the tortures of the damned once the supplies of the drugs were cut off.

"This is a very serious offence and one for which you could get five years' imprisonment," his Honour added.

DANGEROUS DRUGS REGULATIONS (VICTORIA).

Cases Prosecuted at Geelong.

A number of prosecutions under the dangerous drug regulations and the Medical Act, Part III, were dealt with by Mr. M. Steedman, S.M., in the City Court, Geelong, on August 13.

Mrs. Merle Elva Wilson, of Lorne, was fined £10, with £5/7/6 for costs, on a charge of having failed to keep dangerous drugs locked away; £5, with £3/5/6 for costs, on a charge of having failed to keep dangerous drugs apart from other articles; and £1, with £1/3/6 for costs, for having failed to mark a prescription which included a dangerous drug.

Ralph Edmund Stredwick, Beaumaris, was fined £5 with £3/5/6 for costs for failure to store dangerous drugs apart from other goods; £2 with £2/4/6 for costs for failure to enter in the dangerous drug register all prescriptions, including dangerous drugs; £2 with £2/4/6 for costs for failure to keep a record of prescriptions containing dangerous drugs; £1 with £1/3/6 for costs for failure to keep the dangerous drug register balance; £3 with £3/5/6 for costs for failure to endorse prescriptions; £1 with £1/3/6 for costs for failure to cancel prescriptions, and £1 with £1/3/6 for costs for failure to mark the prescriptions.

Mr. J. Toohey (D. P. F. O'Keeffe and Co.) appeared for Wilson, and Mr. W. Crockett for Stredwick.

Student Activities

S.U.P.A. REPORT.

July saw the start of the football, and the Ball. Pharmacy has entered a team in the inter-faculty competition this year. So far we have been out of luck. Our match against Engineering resulted in a 15-0 loss to us. The next match, against Medicine, was a very good one, and although we were beaten 3-0 Pharmacy went down with all flags flying.

On July 6 the Sydney University Pharmacy Association Ball was held at the Union, at the University, and was attended by 250 eager students. The guests included Prof. and Mrs. Thorp, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Wright, Mr. Hall, President of the N.S.W. Society; and Miss D. Large. The guests were received by Mr. D. Towney, President of S.U.P.A., and Miss N. Hooper.

The hall was gaily decorated with posters representing, in a phantasmagorical way, various aspects of Pharmacy. The main theme seemed to be fish in weird-shaped bottles, "a la Emile Mercier."

The revue staged was well received by the people attending, and included such numbers as "Brush Up Your Bentley," adapted from "Kiss Me Kate."

VICTORIAN PHARMACY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The outstanding event last month was the trip to Ferny Creek on July 4. Not as many students were present as last year, owing to an exam. for second year students on the following day.

Three packed vans left the College at 9.45 a.m., arriving at Ferny Creek at 11.30 a.m. Many students had already arrived by car.

The first big clash of the day was the First Year versus Second Year football match. Although the going was rather wet and slippery, the players adapted themselves to the conditions well, and a good, clean, fast game of football was played. The game was held in check by the excellent umpiring of Lex Macarthur. The final result was a win to First Year. Congratulations, First Year.

At the same time, Third Year challenged Fourth Year to a tennis match. The standard of the play was high, and it proved to be a most interesting and spectacular match.

After lunch the Third Year versus Fourth Year football match was played. The field umpire was Mr. Coe, and the goal umpires one-eyed supporters. The play was a little slow early, but gradually most of the players found some form, and the game developed into a hard, rugged match. Unfortunately, some of the stars were injured, and did not play as well as expected. When the final bell sounded the Fourth Year boys ran out the winners by about two goals. The best players for Fourth Year were: Constable, Davison and Kalaf. For Third Year, Ken Shaw takes the award for the best player; others were Hawksley, Van den Berg, Harlem and Matthews.

The girls then braved the cold and wet to play the softball matches. Third Year defeated Second Year very comfortably in the first match. Although the barracking was rather disconcerting, the girls opened their shoulders and batted very confidently. The fielding on both sides was poor, owing to lack of practice. With greater barracking than ever, Third Year then challenged First Year, who seemed very confident of a win. However, the Third Year girls really found their top form, and gave a fine exhibition of softball. They won quite comfortably, much to their surprise.

Best players were the captain, Estelle Taylor, Johnny Fargie, and Joan Knight.

A barbecue was held in Sherbrooke Forest in the evening. I am sure most ate more charcoal than meat, but it proved most enjoyable.

Many students, we are told, went looking for lyre-birds during the day; nobody seemed to find any, although they were heard!

The vans left Ferny Creek at 7.15 p.m., filled with tired, aching forms. It seems some students were startled when a flashlight photo was taken on the way home! The photo did not come out.

The Pharmacy Students' Social Club's dance, which was to have been held on July 9, was postponed owing to the pressure of exams. However, it is hoped this dance will be held before the end of term.

Rehearsals have been in full swing for the Follies at the annual ball on August 23. The ballet this year is being trained by Miss Wallace, who is doing a very good job with the girls. Many sketches are also being rehearsed, under the production and direction of John Russo and Bill Barber.

Discussion Group.—On June 29 a discussion night

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was held at Janet Manning's home in South Yarra. About 20 people attended, and backed by a blazing fire, a terrific supper provided by Mrs. Manning, and valuable assistance given by Mr. Manning, the evening was one of the most successful held so far. Many thanks to the Manning's for the use of their home and the help they so graciously and generously gave.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY PHARMACY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

The Pharmacy Ball.—This was an outstanding success, with over 600 people jamming the refectory and the two adjacent halls of the Adelaide University. Surrounding this was over 800 feet of coloured festooning and numerous spotlights, making the whole area a blaze of light and colour. It was a marvellous evening, and even the weather (the first time for years) really excelled itself, and remained fine and warm. Afterwards there was the usual cleaning up to be done; this took over five hours, and was a colossal task. The coloured balloons, of which there were well over 150, were taken to the sick children at the Adelaide Children's Hospital. These were received with great enthusiasm as students went round the wards distributing these balloons to the children, all of whom were tremendously excited.

General Meeting.—During the year we hold several meetings, and the next promises to be one of the most outstanding. There are several highly debatable subjects on the agenda, which includes the proposed new constitution, new Pharmacy lapel badge, wages determination and blood bank. The proposed new constitution has been found necessary, due to the present high status of the Association in the University.

Pharmacy Picnic.—Our annual picnic was held at "The Gums" Oval, National Park, Belair, on July 18. Fauldings were invited to the picnic, and they supplied a team to play us at baseball and also basketball. Basketball was introduced this year to provide some active sport for the girls, as the boys had a monopoly last year. Football was played by two teams drawn from amongst Pharmacy students.

Engagements.—A.U.P.S.A. students this year seem to have excelled themselves, in that eight members have become engaged, including our president. All A.U.P.S.A. members would like to congratulate the following:—

Judith Herring to Kevin Glastonbury.
Denise Henrie to Bob Maloney.
Jeanette Thomas to Neville Tonkin.
Joy Steer to Keith Netting.

Annual Dinner.—This function was held on August 10 at the Hotel Adelaide. Jim Cacus celebrated his 21st birthday on the same evening, and it was generally decided that after leaving the hotel at 11 p.m. the party should proceed to his home to continue the evening.

We conclude with the reminder that the next annual N.U.P.S.A. conference will be in South Australia, from January 16-30, 1955.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Plans have now been finalised for the W.A.P.S.A. blazer and lapel badge. The colour of the blazer is to be a cross between royal blue and navy, with a white shield on the pocket. On the shield is "R/," and below "W.A.P.S.A." in blue lettering.

It is plain, and stands out very well. The design of the lapel badge is based on that of the blazer pocket, and will probably cost about 5/-. We're hoping to see lots of blazers around the College in the near future.

The Yancheys football-picnic was a great success. Once again the weather forecast was wrong, and the sun shone all day. Several boats were taken out on the lake, and we hear that several people were half-drowned when the girls tried rowing! Syl. Lane ably

umpired the football match, and one side beat the other 6 goals 8 behinds to 5 goals 2 behinds (which side was which, no one knows!).

The student dance on August 14, at Mt. Lawley Tennis Club, was very successful, contributed to by an excellent band, a roaring fire, and a good supper.

TASMANIAN PHARMACY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of T.P.S.A., held at the home of Miss Sally Sharp, on June 23, business in hand was considered in the following order:—

1. Resignation of the President.—Unfortunately the President, Mr. Ian McIntosh, had suffered a long illness, and bearing this in mind, with his studies and other obligations, he considered it better for the Association to accept his resignation. The meeting did this with regret, and an election was held, Mr. David Tremayne being appointed to fill the position.

2. Appointment of an Apprentice to the Chemists' Wages Board.—It was felt that with upwards of 50 apprentices in and out of their time, endeavouring to qualify, and the number rapidly increasing, it would be desirable that an apprentice be appointed to the Wages Board, and these steps are being taken.

(a) A letter has been forwarded to the Secretary of the Society (T.P.S.), asking him to inform the next general meeting of the move at hand. This was done to prevent any misunderstanding between the students' association and the Society.

(b) A letter has been forwarded to the chairman of the Wages Board, asking him the position in the above respect, and enquiring who has the authority to bring this about.

3. Examination Reports.—An invitation was extended to the most recent examiners to attend the July meeting of the Association, and give something in the nature of a report and constructive criticism of the exams. If the examiners were unable to attend because of other obligations, it was suggested that a written report would be appreciated.

4. Dance on July 10.—Because of the closeness of examinations, the annual dance was postponed one week. The Lenah Valley Hall was booked for the occasion.

Overseas News

GREAT BRITAIN

London, August 10, 1954.

Pricing Arrangements.

In the July News Letter reference was made to the Chemist Contractors' Committee's continued request for a return to full pricing. Some progress has been reported in this connection, as it has been agreed that during the next 12 months each contractor will have every prescription priced for at least three months. England and Wales will be divided into areas, and for three or four months in succession chemists will be asked to submit their prescriptions arranged in doctor order. At the end of this period they will return to the present system of dividing at a 5/- ingredient cost limit, and the higher-valued group will be priced in full and 20 per cent. of the remaining low-valued prescriptions. Chemists in other areas will then begin to arrange their prescriptions in doctor order, so that over 12 months every contractor will have had the benefit of this complete examination of his prescriptions. In

addition, contractors with small-size bundles will have their prescriptions completely priced every month, and will receive payments on the fully-priced figures. The level will be fixed around 500 prescriptions per month, and it is expected that about 2,200 contractors out of the total of approximately 13,400 in England and Wales will be included in this group.

Excessive Prescribing.

Arrangements into doctor order will facilitate the examination of prescribing costs, as individual prescribers' averages can be quickly determined. An investigation unit has been at work for some time on this problem, and in reply to a question in the House of Commons Miss Hornsby-Smith, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health, said that the administrative cost of investigations into excessive prescribing during the past 12 months was estimated to be under £15,000. During that period eight cases were referred to local medical committees. The investigations were in two stages. In the first place, the regional medical officer went to the doctor who was responsible for over-prescribing, and endeavoured to point out to him the effect of his over-prescribing, and to obtain his co-operation. In that respect about 200 doctors had been interviewed at a saving, as near as could be estimated, of £300,000 a year. It was only in extreme cases, where doctors refused co-operation, that they were referred to the committee, and that accounted for the low number of eight. The Minister had directed the withholding of a total of £500 from three doctors in partnership. Independent referees estimated the excess cost of their prescribing to be £232 in a single month, and remarked that they appeared to have been over-prescribing for a long time.

Official View and Full Pricing.

At present it seems doubtful whether any further progress will be made towards full pricing. In a letter dated July 29, addressed to the chairman of the Central Contractors' Committee, the Minister of Health says: "I feel sure that a satisfactory scheme can be devised, which will enable both the additional pricing to be done and figures to be extracted relating to the cost of doctors' prescribing. If, at some later stage, it appears that the staff which is necessary to undertake this work can in fact carry a heavier load, we shall always be ready to consider what future developments ought to take place, both in the interests of the pharmacists and in the wider context of the Health Services as a whole; but I feel bound to warn you that I am very doubtful whether I should be able to justify incurring expenditure which could otherwise be saved, simply in order to carry out the detailed pricing of each prescription or to increase the proportion of prescriptions so priced."

Linstead Report on Hospital Pharmacy.

During the past month the position of hospital pharmacists has received much attention. The most important event has been the publication of the report of the Central Health Services Council for 1953, which includes a summary of the Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Hugh Linstead, which examined the pharmaceutical service in hospitals. Regarding qualified staff, the report says:—

There are at present about 1,165 whole-time and 134 part-time pharmacists employed in hospitals in the National Health Service. This is not nearly enough, and there is a lamentable shortage of recruits to hospital work. The main reasons for this appear to be:

(a) Initial salaries are low in comparison with those paid to newly qualified pharmacists in retail pharmacy, and maximum salaries are low compared with those paid in senior posts in industry.

(b) The position of the pharmaceutical department has often been ill-defined, at least until recent years. It has too often not been accorded its proper recog-

nition and status in the hospital, and the pharmacist has too often been required to undertake extraneous duties, such as those of chief medical stores officer, which may seriously prejudice his proper functions.

(c) There is ignorance, both among students and in the profession generally, of the interest to be found in hospital pharmacy; where possible, chief pharmacists should establish contact with Schools of Pharmacy.

The Committee took evidence on the position of the dispensing assistants. It was agreed that such assistant played an important part in hospital pharmacy, but there was some difference of opinion on the nature of training required. It was considered that the assistant should always work under the direction of a pharmacist, and this should be recognised and reflected in his training and examination requirements. It was recommended that the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland should call a conference with a view of regularising the position of dispensing assistants.

It was considered that the hospital pharmacist had a part to play in the education of medical students as future prescribers, and as such the pharmacist should have a recognised status in the medical school. The training of nurses in the handling of medicines should not be carried out by the pharmacist, but should be given by the sister tutor.

Economy in Prescribing.

The report states that a number of hospitals and groups have achieved substantial economies through an investigation of prescribing practice by their Medical Committee, and where this has not been done a committee (mainly doctors and pharmacists) should be set up in the group for this purpose. They should consider suggestions such as:

(1) Authorising the use of official equivalents included in list A in the National Formulary, and considering whether similar authority can be given for other preparations;

(2) Limiting the routine administration of antibiotics and vitamins;

(3) Analysing the cost of prescribing by departments or individuals;

(4) Examining the prescribing and use of each of the items responsible in that group for the greater part of the cost of drugs;

(5) Devising means whereby excessive prescribing or possible economies can be kept under regular review, and brought to the attention of the Medical Committee;

(6) Utilising to the maximum extent the National Formulary;

(7) Instituting a system whereby prescribers will warn the pharmacist of the probable duration of the prescribing of an unusual medicament, to avoid overstocking, and whereby the pharmacist may advise the Medical Committee of excessive stocks held;

(8) The preparation of a leaflet for medical staff on economy in prescribing.

There is plenty of evidence that hospitals which have adopted some or all of these practices have been able to achieve substantial economies without the slightest detriment to their patients.

Further economies could be achieved by the manufacture of perfusion fluids in the group or by a neighbouring group, but the manufacture of standard galenicals should not be generally encouraged in hospitals.

Since the report was issued in July, the Ministry has initiated an enquiry into staffing and the work carried out by pharmacists in every hospital in the country.

A Study Leave.

It has now been agreed that hospital pharmacists may be granted study leave by their employing authori-

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ties. Such leave will not be given as a matter of right, but will be at the discretion of the employer, and if the employers intend to pay travelling and subsistence expenses for examinations or other expenses, such as course fees, the Minister's consent must be obtained. If leave is given on full salary, the consent of the Regional Board is required for periods up to 13 weeks, and the Minister's if it is more than this period.

Warning on Cortisone.

In the annual report of the Medical Research Council, a warning is given that therapy with cortisone and A.C.T.H. should never be undertaken lightly in the treatment of chronic rheumatic diseases. The drugs ought not to be used save when the patient can be kept under constant medical supervision, and when all necessary facilities for controlling treatment are available. Unfortunately, increasing experience tends to show that the minimum doses required to maintain freedom from joint symptoms are commonly at or above the level which produces side-effects, such as coarsening of the appearance, increase in weight, hairiness, etc. There are also more serious dangers—high blood pressure, heart failure, diabetes mellitus, activation of latent tuberculosis, perforation of peptic ulcers, and mental disturbances. To some extent these can be avoided by excluding from the treatment patients who show even the slightest evidence of any of these conditions. In some patients, however, such evidence is not forthcoming, and in these dangerous complications may appear with unexpected and "perhaps uncontrollable" rapidity.

Dangers of Methylpentynol.

Methylpentynol has been given a great deal of publicity in the lay Press, and in a recent case before a magistrate's court Dr. Haler, Home Office pathologist, said that it had been credited with almost magical results, which were not true, and ought not to have been published. This observation was made when a motorist was charged with driving while under the influence of drink or drugs. The motorist said he had seen an article about a drug called Oblivon, which asserted: "It will do anything for you; no overdose, no hangover." He had drunk three-quarters of a half-bottle of gin, and first took 12 capsules of Oblivon, and then another eight. Dr. Haler said it was known that the effect of both alcohol and the drug was on the liver, and there must be some competition for the detoxication.

An official statement has been made by the Pharmaceutical Society, which reads:—The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society view with increasing anxiety the notices given to methylpentynol and its applications in various newspapers. While the final place of this drug in therapeutics is still uncertain, the dangers of its indiscriminate use or use in excessive quantities are substantial, and it is the opinion of the Council that methylpentynol should be available on medical or dental prescription only. The Council accordingly advise members to supply the drug only on that basis.

Solutions for Injection.

The report of the Central Health Services Council also contains recommendations from a Committee set up "to consider what measures were necessary to reduce the danger of the wrong solution being injected subcutaneously, intravenously or intrathecally into hospital patients; to draw up a code of practice for the guidance of hospital staff in operating theatres and elsewhere; and to report back to the Committee." The recommendations of the sub-committee include the following:—

Colouring: Colouring should be added to all naturally colourless non-injectable fluids supplied for operating theatre use, and no colouring matter should be added to any injectable fluids. This should help considerably to prevent accidents caused by confusing injectable and non-injectable fluids in use at the same time. In choosing what colouring should be added, effect should

be given to the scheme recommended in a report prepared by a sub-committee of the Codex Revision Commission, and accepted by the main Committee in June, 1950. (P.J., April 26, 1952, p. 283.)

Storage: It is desirable that hospitals should adopt some standard method of storing dangerous drugs, i.e., dangerous drugs within the meaning of the Dangerous Drugs Act, and poisons, so as to reduce the danger of misunderstanding when staff are moved from one hospital to another. The Pharmaceutical Society and the Guild of Public Pharmacists might therefore be asked jointly to devise a standard layout for a storage cupboard for this purpose, and hospitals recommended to bring it into use when opportunity offers. Care should be taken that drugs, particularly those which become unstable, are not stored for excessive periods in hospital theatres and wards. This is a point which the pharmacist, or other person authorised by the governing body, should bear in mind during the quarterly visits of inspection required under Rule 29 (4) of the Poisons Rules, 1952.

Method of Ordering: When orders for drugs are given verbally, experience has shown that mistakes may be made, e.g., in the name of the drug ordered or the particular concentration required. Results of such misunderstanding may be serious. Orders to the hospital pharmacist for injectable materials should, therefore, always be made in writing, and should be clearly written.

Sterilisation of Ampoules: In considering the sterilisation of the outside surfaces of ampoules, the sub-committee investigated the method at one hospital of keeping ampoules in "formalin vapour"—i.e., formaldehyde—instead of in a fluid disinfectant. This method was found to be quickly effective against bacterial contaminants. Glass containers of two sizes, 8 in. x 4 in. x 4 in., and 8 in. x 4 in. x 2 in., with tight-fitting metal lids are used. Two or three 1 gm. tablets of paraformaldehyde are placed in the bottom of the glass container, and covered with a layer of slightly moist lint, since formalin vapour acts best in a warm, moist atmosphere. The ampoules are laid on the lint, the lid is replaced and the container is sealed by a band of adhesive tape wrapped round the lower edge of the lid. Sterilisation of the outside surfaces of the ampoules will be completed after one hour's exposure. Fresh tablets must be added at regular intervals to maintain an adequate concentration of the formalin vapour. Ampoules containing different substances should be stored in separate containers. The containers are conveniently kept in the sterilising or anaesthetic room adjacent to the operating theatre; they must not be stored in the refrigerator. In the sub-committee's view, one of the advantages of the method just described is that there is less likelihood of an ampoule being cracked and its contents contaminated, and hospital authorities would therefore be well advised to consider adopting it.

Chartered Colleges of Technology.

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee of members of both Houses of Parliament and additional representatives have prepared a memorandum on higher technological education. It is recommended that a few colleges should be selected and granted a Royal Charter. These selected colleges should be provided with strong governing bodies, with adequate representation of industrial, commercial and university interests in the region, as well as having members drawn from the educational side.

The Royal Chartered Colleges of Technology should prove an invaluable supplementary source to the Universities for providing the number of highly qualified technologists of which the country stands in such urgent need. They should provide for an advanced full-time "sandwich" and part-time day and evening courses, post-graduate courses, and research on a full-time and part-time basis. It is also desirable that the colleges

which are selected for the grant of Royal Charters should associate their advanced work with research, and should be capable of preparing students for higher degrees. The courses and examinations should be of such a nature as to exempt, at least in part, from the examinations of the professional institutions.

When a College of Technology is upgraded to become a Royal Chartered College, it must have very special regard for the importance of high qualification of students on entry, and the need to concentrate on the highest-grade students, with the consequential segregation of much of the lower-grade day and evening technical and technological students to other institutions. Such courses should be available by local authority arrangement at other local technical schools or colleges. But it is imperative that no rung in the ladder which is now available for the able student of limited means should be removed when a college is so upgraded. The Royal Chartered Colleges should not be too specialist in character. There must be a reasonable infusion of the humanities, as well as mathematics, science and technology, etc., in the courses. They must also be encouraged to build up their own scientific and technological education schemes, and thus earn a reputation for themselves in particular sciences and technologies. Only by that means will they get a sufficient concentration of adequate teachers and equipment.

Market Report

LONDON MARKET REPORT.

August 10, 1954.

Although mid-July and early August are the quietest period of the year in the drug market, the past four weeks have not been without interesting features.

The most important has been the total disappearance of buchu. This year's crop was selling around 3/- per lb., when suddenly the price jumped to 5/-, and even at this advanced value the last few bales were snapped up.

Attention has also been concentrated on senega; nothing is available here, and Canadian shippers suggest a value of around 18/6 per lb. when the crop is brought in.

Rhubarb also remains scarce. It is understood that the Chinese authorities are unwilling to sell the root, but would barter against articles on which an embargo has been placed.

Aloes remain difficult, and prime Cape is nominal at 220/- per cwt.

Forward rates for this year's cascara have fallen to 230/- per cwt., and last year's is available on the spot at 315/-, duty paid.

New crop ergot is nominal at 18/6 per lb for shipment from Portugal.

For many months there has been little squill on offer in London and none in Italy, but now c.i.f. prices are between 60/- and 65/- per cwt.

Little interest has been shown in pharmaceutical gums, but acacia has gone up to 137/6 per cwt.

Spices have been erratic.

Mombasa chillies are almost unobtainable, and shippers' rates are over 320/- per cwt.

Turmeric, Madras finger, is 135/- per cwt. on the spot and forward rates, after having been around 122/6 per cwt. for several weeks, are now between 130/- and 140/- per cwt.

Cardamoms are weak; Aleppi greens are 13/- spot and 10/6, c.i.f. No. 1 seed is 22/- spot and 17/- forward.

Ginger has advanced sharply; African is worth 245/- per cwt. on the spot, and 232/6, c.i.f. Jamaican No. 3 is 245/- per cwt.

Shellac has been very firm; T.N. is 325/- per cwt., and Standard No. 1 350/-.

Menthol is almost unchanged at 28/3 per lb. for Chinese, duty paid.

Throughout the essential oil side prices have tended upwards.

Chinese peppermint has reached 21/- per lb. on the spot, and 20/-, c.i.f.

Lemongrass has gone up to 10/- per lb., and 9/6, c.i.f.

Aniseed is firm at 9/9 per lb., with replacements around 9/6.

Lemon is dearer at 44/- per lb. for Sicilian hand-pressed oil of B.P. quality.

Some white camphor oil of Japanese origin is now on sale at 3/7½ per lb.

Cod liver oil is now worth 11/6 to 13/- per gallon, according to quantity.

The only alterations in chemicals has been a further increase in the rates for mercurials. Current rates per ½ kg. are:—Ammoniated mercury, 71/-; perchloride, lump, 64/-; perchloride, powder, 63/3; calomel, 72/3; red and yellow oxides, both 77/3. The metal is scarce at £100 per 76-lb. flask.

Natural camphor is scarce on the spot, and up to 6/6 per lb. has been paid for any available material.

Trade Notes

BAYER PHARMA PTY. LTD.

New packs are now available of the undermentioned preparations:—

	Price to Chemist.
Theocin Sodium Acetate Tablets, 2½ gr., 25's	6/- each
Monacrin Powder, 1 K.G.	900/- "
Neomonacrin Powder, 1 K.G.	1,350/- "

"PORTEX" MEDICATED PLASTIC SKIN.

Boots Pure Drug Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., which is the Australian agent for Portland Plastics Ltd., England, announces that it will shortly be in a position to release adequate stocks of "Portex" Medicated Plastic Skin in tubes of 10 c.c. (display outers of 12).

We are informed that this germicidal and self-sterilising adhesive plastic skin, which is a "chemists only" product, will be available through all retail pharmacists in the Commonwealth in the very near future, and that its release will be backed by advertising and circularisation.

PALMOLIVE SUPER-BATH SIZE.

A new size Palmolive soap, Palmolive Super-Bath size—is now available. It is a big new tablet of soap, more than twice the size of the Palmolive Regular size tablet and will retail at 1/2½.

Colgate-Palmolive Pty. Ltd. is confident that the introduction of Palmolive Super-Bath will increase Palmolive's share of the Australian soap market and that chemists stocking this new size will automatically increase their own share of this market.

We are informed that Super-Bath will be featured in an advertising drive that will top all previous promotions of the company.

GUARANTEE Announcing

a NEW method of PRICE MARKING ALL MERCHANDISE

STOP LOSSES FROM PENCILLED PRICES

The progressive Retailer will quickly realise the dangers of scribbled prices.

- ★ Little to no space on which to write.
- ★ No time or space to write stock control data.
- ★ Confusion at stocktaking.
- ★ Customer dissatisfaction when charged in correctly.
- ★ Loss of profit when busy staff start guessing prices

MODERNISE and TAGVERTISE

Brig-marking always gives you a uniform white space, on which appear your name, seasonal code, cost code and selling price in BOLD figures.

- ★ 15 minutes a day will give you this result.
- ★ Every item leaving your store is advertising your name.
- ★ Brig-marking protects you from loss of profit, loss of prestige.



THE FULLY GUARANTEED

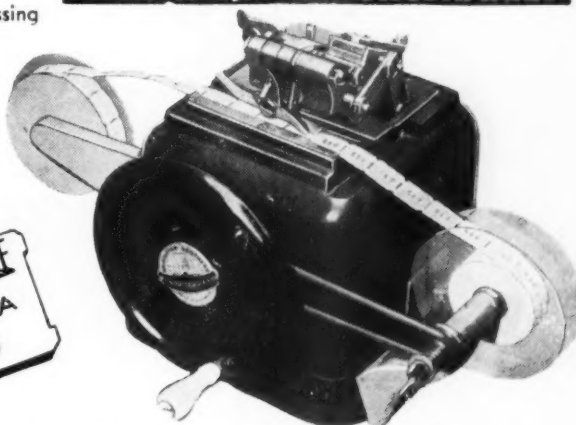
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PRINTS

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- PIN-TICKETS

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J.P.1

NEW POTENCIES OF GLAXO PENICILLINS

Glaxo Laboratories (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. are pleased to announce the introduction of the following new potencies of Crystalline Penicillin Glaxo, Mylipen and Seclopen:--

*All listed as
Pharmaceutical Benefits*

MYLIPEN

*Procaine Penicillin in
Aqueous Suspension
(P.B.A. Item 140)*

vials: **1,500,000** units

*Stocks immediately
available*

CRYSTALLINE PENICILLIN

Glaxo

(P.B.A. Item 139)

vials: **1,500,000** units

SECLOPEN

*Procaine Penicillin plus
Crystalline Penicillin
(P.B.A. Item 141)*

vials: **1,500,000** units

GLAXO LABORATORIES (AUST.) PTY. LTD., 29-47 VILLIERS ST., NORTH MELBOURNE
And at 230 Elizabeth St., Sydney

PFEIFFER RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

We are informed by Wm. R. Warner & Co. Ltd. that the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education received approximately \$867,000 from the bequest made to it in the Pfeiffer will.

The co-founder of Warner-Hudnut also left approximately \$87,000 to each of the following:—City College of N.Y. School of Pharmacy, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

The remaining \$10 million from his estate goes to the Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation, from which grants will be made for research in medicine and pharmacy. Elmer Bobst, Chairman for Warner-Hudnut, and a retail Pharmacist in his early days, is head of the Pfeiffer Foundation.

Money provided for research and charitable purposes from the estates of both Henry and Gustavus Pfeiffer totals almost \$40 million.

CHEMISTS USE BAGS IN U.S.A.

An executive of E. C. Blackwoods, of Sydney and Melbourne, recently returned to Australia after an extensive visit to U.S.A. and Canada, and in his report he states bags are universally used by chemists in that country. He also reported the chemist bags introduced to chemists in Australia by his company are superior in design and size to those used in U.S.A. Most chemists in U.S.A. use white paper for their bags, as against the symbolic shade of mauve, now used by the majority of chemists in Australia.

E. C. Blackwood's are now making available bags and sheets with an attractive three-colour Xmas motif printed all over the paper. Chemists generally carry a large variety of lines suitable for Xmas gifts, and it will be pleasing for their customers to have such seasonal purchases in paper appropriate to the occasion.

U.K. TRADE COMMISSIONER.

The Board of Trade announce that Mr. A. W. Burton, M.B.E., United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Melbourne, and one of the Assistant Commercial Advisers to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, is retiring on November 30, 1954.

His successor will be A. R. Starck, O.B.E., at present serving as United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Trinidad. He expects to arrive in Melbourne about the middle of November next.

Mr. Burton was previously Assistant and Acting United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Melbourne between 1929 and 1937, and Trade Commissioner in Sydney from 1938 to 1947. He subsequently served as Principal Trade Commissioner in Calcutta from 1947 until returning to Melbourne in 1950.

Mr. Starck served in the Royal Fusiliers from 1915 to 1919, and has been in the Board of Trade Service since 1913. He has been engaged on Trade Commissioner work since 1930, having served in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Trinidad.

PRESCRIPTION PROPRIETARIES CARD SERVICE.

The 15 cards to be issued shortly for the month of August, 1954, will deal with the following products:—

A: 83	Actidil Elixir.
A: 84	Alevaire.
B: 54	Butazolidin.
F: 21	Tab. F.A.
F: 22	Tab. F.A.B. Co.
M: 47	Mycota Fungicidal Powder.
M: 48	Mycota Fungicidal Ointment.
P: 114	Procardyl.
P: 115	Pregnenolone (Roussel).
P: 116	Peritrate.
P: 117	Penta-Kaps Tablets.
R: 16	Rauwiloid & Veriloid.
S: 55	Serpiloid.
T: 48	Theodrox (with and without Phenobarb).
T: 49	Terramycin Ointment with Polymyxin.

Subscriptions, £3/3/-, to the P.P. Card Service for 1954 may be commenced at any time. Cards back to January 1954, will be sent on receipt of order, accompanied by cheque, addressed to: The Manager, "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy," 360 Swanston street, Melbourne.

We regret that the cards of earlier years—1951, 1952 and 1953—are now out of print.

GLAXO LABORATORIES: PRICE REDUCTIONS.

Glaxo Laboratories (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. has announced reductions in the prices for Cytamen and also the introduction of 10 c.c. vials of the 50, 100 and 1000 microgram potencies. The new trade prices are:

Cytamen "20": Boxes 6 x 1 c.c. ampoules, 5/3 each; boxes 50 x 1 c.c. ampoules, 40/- each.

Cytamen "50": Boxes 6 x 1 c.c. ampoules, 6/- each; boxes 50 x 1 c.c. ampoules, 48/- each; 10 c.c. vials, 7/- each.

Cytamen "100": Boxes 6 x 1 c.c. ampoules, 8/- each; boxes 50 x 1 c.c. ampoules, 62/- each; 10 c.c. vials, 11/- each.

Cytamen "1000": Boxes 6 x 1 c.c. ampoules, 70/- each; boxes 50 x 1 c.c. ampoules, £24/10/- each; 10 c.c. vials, 90/-.

Reductions in Prices for Veterinary Cerates.

The company has also reduced its prices for Vetspen, Streptopen and Dihydrostreptomycin Cerates. The new prices are:

Vetspen (35,000 units per tube): Tins of 12 tubes—retail 12/- each, trade 8/- each.

Vetspen "100" (140,000 units per tube): Tins of 12 tubes—retail 19/6 each, trade 14/- each.

Streptopen: Tins of 12 tubes—retail 28/- each, trade 21/- each.

Dihydrostreptomycin Veterinary Cerate: Tins of 12 tubes—retail 32/- each, trade 24/- each.

BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. (NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED.

Mr. P. A. Smith, Director and General Manager of Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (Australia) Limited, and a Director of the newly-formed associated house in New Zealand, photographed on his return from New Zealand early in August.



Mr. P. A. Smith.

Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (New Zealand) Limited, the 10th overseas associated house of The Wellcome Foundation Ltd., commenced business in March of this

year. The company was formed to provide a more adequate service to meet the increasing requirements of business in the Dominion.

RECEPTION FOR ADELAIDE CHEMISTS.

On the night of August 16 more than 200 qualified pharmacists attended a reception held by F. H. Faulding & Co. Ltd. at the Burnside Town Hall, to hear talks from Mr. A. F. Scammell (Chairman) and Mr. R. T. Patterson (Technical Director), who returned recently from a three-month visit to America. Refreshments were served from 7.30 to 8 p.m., when the programme commenced.

Mr. G. R. Huggett, Assistant General Manager of F. H. Faulding & Co. Ltd., welcomed the guests and introduced the programme.

Mr. A. F. Scammell gave a very interesting summary of the travellers' itinerary and commented on general conditions in the United States. Mr. Scammell's talk touched on many cities, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia and Toronto. Mr. Scammell also stated that the ideas and developments they brought back could greatly affect the pharmaceutical trade of Australia.

Mr. Patterson discussed and used slides to illustrate the pharmaceutical houses of America. Special emphasis was laid on the fact that most pharmaceutical houses in America are not content to supply only the home market but are supplying a world market.

Both speakers used films to illustrate their talks, and these films, according to Mr. K. S. Porter, who proposed the vote of thanks to the company, supplied a long-standing need in showing pharmacists the history of the products they handled. At the conclusion of Mr. Porter's speech the guests enjoyed supper and refreshments, the evening concluding shortly after 11.30 p.m.

CLINTON-WILLIAMS PTY. LTD.

Mr. Edward Beacham, well-known chemist, of Melbourne, and managing director of Marshall's Chemical Co. Pty. Ltd., left recently for a business visit to the



Mr. Edward Beacham.

U.S.A. and England, and will be abroad about two months.

Marshall's Chemical Co. Pty. Ltd., from its new manufacturing premises in Heidelberg road, Alphington, Victoria, now manufactures and packs all lines for Clinton-Williams Pty. Ltd. and other American clients, formerly handled by Clinton-Williams Pty. Ltd. in Sydney.

Distribution of the products is still controlled by Clinton-Williams Pty. Ltd., whose new offices are situated

in Marshall Chemical Company's premises in Melbourne.

Mr. Beacham will discuss with American principals and clients new manufacturing and merchandising methods, and the development of new products for the Australasian market.

P.A.T.A. OF N.S.W.

Notified 19/8/54—

Chemists' Section: Additions.			Wholesale
Size	Retail		
	Whitehall Pharmacal Co.		
20s	2/9	Anacin Tablets c. Codeine	22/- doz.
100s	10/-	Anacin Tablets c. Codeine	80/- "
	Wyeth International Limited.		
12s	7/6	Aludrox	60/- "
50s	6/6	Aludrox Tablets	52/- "
16 oz.	6/6	Petrolagar Forte No. 6	52/- "
1 oz.	5/-	Rubiguent	40/- "
General Section: Addition.			
Raymond Mullis Pty. Ltd.			
Refills	3/6	Cutipen—Self-contained Plastic Cuticle Pen	25/- "
General Section: Alterations.			
Coloseptic (Australia) Ltd.			
Small	3/3	Coloseptic	29/6 "
Fisons Chemicals (Pty.) Limited.			
Medium	10/6	Sanatogen	94/6 "
Large	19/6	Sanatogen	175/6 "
Magnum	37/6	Sanatogen	337/6 "

ANTIBIOTICS FOR AGRICULTURAL USE

Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, announces that under section 507 (a) and (c) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, an article that contains one or more of the antibiotic substances described in the aforementioned section, and intended solely for application to plants for the control of plant diseases caused by micro-organisms, and conspicuously so labelled, is not subject to the requirements of sections 502 (1) and 507 of the Act if it contains one or more suitable denaturants that make it unfit for drug use. However, it shall not be exempt from the requirements of these sections if it is represented or intended to be administered to man or other animals for the cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease or as an animal feed supplement.—From "The Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association," April, 1954.

TOXICITY OF METHYL SALICYLATE

In America, as well as in Britain, the incidence of accidental poisoning by methyl salicylate has been causing alarm. The President of the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy, writing in the "American Journal of Pharmacy" (1953, 126, 65), points out that a dose as small as 4.8 c.c. has been known to be fatal, and he urges that the drug should be classified and labelled as a poison. He suggested a form of wording for methyl salicylate labels, incorporating warnings that the product may cause extensive irritation of the skin, particularly when applied with rubbing; that patients should avoid getting it into their eyes, or on mucous membranes or broken skin; that it should be kept out of the reach of children; and that it may be fatal if taken.

A statement issued recently by the U.S. Department of Health says that any product containing more than 5 per cent. of methyl salicylate will be regarded as "misbranded" under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, unless a warning is given that use otherwise than as directed may be dangerous, and that the article should be kept out of the reach of children to prevent accidental poisoning.—Extract from "The Alchemist," July, 1954.



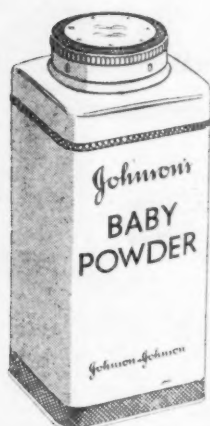
Growing Bigger & Bigger Every Year!

We're almost accustomed to this happy business of growing bigger and bigger every year. Again in 1953 Johnson's Baby Products hit an all-time sales peak — the stage is all set for a repeat performance in 1954, too.

Our forecast is not hard to understand when you realise that more mothers prefer Johnson's to all other brands combined — in fact four out of every five baby or talcum powders sold are Johnson's!

A fast-selling product *earns* good display. Give Johnson's Baby Products the display they merit. Display them *together* because we know they sell *fastest together*.

Get your full share! Aim for maximum sales by stocking and displaying these fast-selling companion products—all leaders in their field! Johnson's Baby Powder, Baby Soap, Baby Cream, Baby Oil.



BABY POWDER
The complete family powder used in more than 7 out of 10 Australian homes.



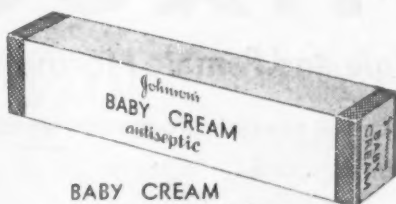
BABY SOAP
The finest, blandest baby soap obtainable. Recommended wherever a pure, mild skin soap is indicated.



BABY OIL
A pure, smooth baby oil, essential for complete baby skin care.



COTTON BALLS
The softest, whitest, most absorbent cotton wool obtainable. Ideal for baby care.



BABY CREAM
A fine, soothing baby cream to relieve and prevent chafes, rashes and all skin irritations. Now contains the wonderful new antiseptic, Hexachlorophene.

JOHNSON'S BABY PRODUCTS

Johnson & Johnson
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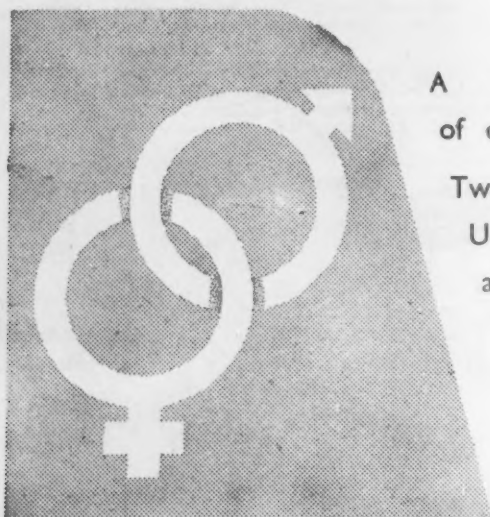
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NEW ADVANCE

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Two years' clinical research in the United Kingdom was undertaken to arrive at a suitable combination.

Formula: Mixogen contains in each tablet:

Ethinylloestradiol B.P. . . 0.0044 mg.

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MIXOGEN

Male and Female Hormones in one tablet

Tubes of 25 and Bottles of 100 available from your regular wholesaler or direct from Agents in Australia:

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8-12, BATHURST STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

Also at Box 2320, V, G.P.O. Melbourne — Box 1162 P. Brisbane

Box 845, G.P.O. Adelaide — Box 1549, G.P.O. Perth

ORGANON LABORATORIES LTD., LONDON

Commonwealth and State News

COMMONWEALTH

PERSONAL and GENERAL

RESERVES OF MEDICAL BENEFITS FUND.

Mr. A. D. Fraser, a Labour Member for New South Wales, asked the Minister for Health in the House of Representatives on August 10 if the Minister would study the figures relating to funds of the Medical Benefits Fund of Australia with a view to withdrawing Commonwealth approval unless benefits were increased by that organisation.

Mr. Fraser stated that the Medical Benefits funds, according to the figures, collected £401,000 last year and distributed only £166,000. He asked, "In particular will the Minister examine the amount of administrative expenses and directors' fees in this B.M.A.-controlled fund."

Replying, Sir Earle Page stated that the fund was under a legal obligation to see that expenses rates were not more than 15 per cent. of total income.

With the present rapid growth, the Medical Benefits Fund would require reserves greater than £400,000, said Sir Earle, and he added, "I would like to see the fund with a reserve of about £4,000,000."

CONTROL OF BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS.

The sale, supply and dispensing of biological products is brought under control in the Australian Capital Territory by Ordinance No. 13 of 1954, which is cited as the Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance 1954.

Provisions of the new Ordinance are as follows:—

"40a. A person shall not supply to, or dispense for, another person a biological preparation unless that other person is—

- (a) A registered medical practitioner;
- (b) A registered pharmacist;
- (c) A registered veterinary surgeon;
- (d) The holder of a licence to sell biological preparations issued by the Board;
- (e) An officer of the Department of Health authorised in writing by the Director-General; or
- (f) A person who presents a prescription signed by a registered medical practitioner or a registered veterinary surgeon, authorising the supply or dispensing of that biological preparation.

Penalty: One hundred pounds."

NEW SOUTH WALES

PERSONAL and GENERAL

State News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in N.S.W. Phone BU 3092.

The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent full of doubt.

—Bertrand Russell.

Mr. D. G. Ashley is in business at 45a Parramatta road, Homebush.

Mr. L. A. Dale has purchased Mr. C. Cahill's pharmacy at Manilla.

Mr. B. C. Griffin has been selected as the occupant of the pharmacy in the Housing Settlement at Herne Bay.

Mr. P. J. Killalea has purchased Mr. J. Hodge's pharmacy, 324 Railway parade, Carlton.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Martin have acquired the pharmacy in Gipps street, Gwynneville.

Mr. H. B. Osborne has opened a pharmacy in Blue Gum road, Jesmond.

Mr. C. Price has opened a pharmacy in Hume Highway, Tarcutta.

Mr. V. B. Shiner has purchased Stinson's Pharmacy, 126 Belmore road, Randwick.

Mr. F. E. Slocum has opened a pharmacy in Bentham street, Yarralumla, Canberra, A.C.T.

Mr. K. H. Tasker has the pharmacy at 25 The Strand, Croydon.

Mr. V. C. Sidoti has the pharmacy at 229 Coogee Bay road, Coogee.

Mr. R. R. Blacket, late of Wauchope, has purchased MacDermott's Pharmacy, 633 Military road, Mosman.

Mrs. B. M. Plaskitt has the Bexley pharmacy, 289 Bexley road, Bexley North.

Mr. W. C. Sheaves has acquired a pharmacy at 409 Pacific Highway, Crow's Nest.

Mr. G. T. Devitt, late of May's Hill, has sold his pharmacy to Mr. J. A. West.

Mr. L. L. Foran, late of Earlwood, has sold his pharmacy.

Mr. T. E. Pidcock, of Coogee, has sold his pharmacy to Mr. Prentice, of Ashfield.

Mr. N. J. Richardson, late of Spit road, Spit Junction, has transferred his activities to Queensland, where he has a pharmacy in Pelican street, Tewantin.

Mr. L. R. Talbot has taken over from Mr. F. W. Parkes. The pharmacy is at 473 Victoria avenue, Chatswood.

Boys' Town is in Engadine, but Engadine itself, with a woman doctor (Dr. N. M. Nelson), chemist (Miss Margaret Stork), and dentist (Miss Norma Dickinson), looks like becoming Girls' Town.—(Column 8, "S.M.H.," 7/8/54).

Backyard "Chemists."—It is reported from Melbourne that because there is no law to stop them, backyard chemists are manufacturing and peddling inferior medicines to the public. This statement was made by Dr. R. J. Farnbach, of the Health Commission. Many "backyarders" are foreigners, he said.

Professor R. H. Thorp is to deliver a series of Post-Graduate Lectures entitled "Pharmacology for Pharmaceutical Chemists." The lectures will commence on September 6 in the No. 1 Theatre of the New Medical School, University of Sydney. The Professor delivered a lecture to members of the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Pharmacists' Association at Newcastle on August 18.

Congratulations to Mr. John G. Cunneen, of Croydon, who has been selected as a member of the New South Wales Golf Team.

Engagement.—The engagement is announced of Dulcie Adele, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Harding, "Brooklyn," Condobolin, to John, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Couchman, of "Wirrilah," Condobolin. Miss Harding qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist at the February, 1952, final examination.

21st Birthday Party.—June Gostelow, a fourth-year trainee nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Camperdown, celebrated her 21st birthday on July 13. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Gostelow, gave a dance for 70 guests at Jonroe, Ashfield.

Baby Health Centre for Caringbah.—The Sutherland Shire Council has invited tenders for construction of a Baby Health Centre in Port Hacking road, Caringbah. The building will be in brick, 1100 square feet in area.

Doctor on Drug Count.—Dr. Ronald Wallace Menzies Gray, aged 32, of Woniara road, Hurstville, was re-

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NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

manded until September 24 in Kogarah Court recently on a charge of having obtained drugs by false representation. Gray is alleged to have obtained morphine sulphate and pethidine from pharmacist Barry John Bryant, of Hurstville, on June 17. Mr. Holt (for Gray) told Mr. Etherton, S.M., that Gray was receiving medical and psychiatric treatment. Mr. Etherton ordered that Gray's recognisance of £100 be held until he appeared at the next hearing.

Woman Dead in Surgery.—Mrs Winifred Mary Fisher, 38, of Binney street, Caringbah, was found dead on July 24 in the surgery of her employer, Mr. Mark Sleeman, veterinary surgeon, of President avenue, Miranda. A cyanide bottle was found near her body. Police said that Mrs. Fisher's husband drove her to work, and 30 minutes later she was found dead on the surgery floor. Detective E. Humphreys and Constable P. Bentley, of Cronulla, are in charge of inquiries.

Mr. P. J. Ashelford Returns from U.S.A.—The Sydney "Telegraph" (11/8/54) reports that Mr. P. J. Ashelford has returned to Sydney after several months in U.S.A., where he studied methods for the control of horse doping. Mr. Ashelford was a student of pharmaceutical science in food and drug analysis at Sydney University, where he graduated with first-class honours. Mr. Ashelford then had the Drug Houses of Australia Fellowship for two years, after which he was appointed analyst to the Department of Pharmacology. In this Pharmacology Department appointment Mr. Ashelford's work was analysing medicines and drugs for the Commonwealth Government.

The Absent-minded Doctors.—All medical practitioners who desire their names kept on the State's medical register have to pay a guinea roll fee annually. According to a statement by the secretary of the Medical Board, Mr. P. E. Cosgrave, in "The Medical Journal of Australia," 5500 names are on the 1953 register. Notices were sent to all of them. By July 1, 3210 payments had been made; 353 notices were returned "unclaimed"; 157 doctors notified that they had permanently left the State and another 300 were traced to other States. Four hundred notices were sent to "vague addresses" overseas but very few had apparently reached the doctors concerned.—(Column 8, "S.M.H.," 7/8/54).

CHEMCO (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.: RECEIVER APPOINTED.

A receiver has been appointed in respect of Chemco (Australia) Pty. Ltd., manufacturers of tablets, capsules, galenicals and chemists' own name proprietaries.

The business is offered for sale as a going concern, or for purchase of the assets separately.

FINE FOR USE OF RED CROSS.

Romer Glass and Physics Laboratories, High street, Carlton (N.S.W.) were fined £5 on August 3 for having used an imitation of the Red Cross without authority. The Red Cross emblem had been used on 12,000 first-aid kits.

The charge was laid under the Geneva Convention Act. (Pharmacists are liable if they use the Red Cross emblem.)

THEY SAY . . .

A Palm Beach chemist has a new licence number for his car—A.P.C. 041.

—"Manly-Warringah News."

One of the big chain store organisations took delivery the other day of its routine order of headache powders—140 million of them!

—"Contact," Sydney Sun.

COMPULSORY UNIONISM.

It is reported that the Federated Clerks' Union has lodged two complaints under N.S.W. legislation against Johnson & Johnson Pty. Ltd., manufacturers of surgical dressings, York street north, Sydney, alleging the company is employing non-union labour. Summonses will be issued by the Department of Labour and Industry.

The validity of the compulsory unionism legislation has been challenged in the High Court, but the matter has not yet been heard.

"METHEDRINE" NOT IN ANTI-SMOKING PREPARATION.

In a recent report of a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of N.S.W., the word "Methedrine" was loosely used when referring to methylamphetamine in conjunction with a proposed anti-smoking preparation.

"Methedrine" is, of course, a registered trademark of Burroughs Wellcome & Co., which company is definitely not interested in any anti-smoking preparation. The word "methylamphetamine" should have been used instead of "Methedrine."

This explanation is made at the request of Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (Australia) Ltd.

RESERVES OF MEDICAL BENEFITS FUND.

It was reported from Canberra on August 10 that Mr. A. D. Fraser (Lab., N.S.W.) asked the Minister for Health, Sir Earle Page, in the House of Representatives whether he would look into the fact that last year the Medical Benefits Fund of Australia collected £401,000 in contributions and paid out only £166,000. He also asked the Minister particularly to look into the amount spent in directors' fees and administrative costs.

Sir Earle Page replied that the Medical Benefits Fund, like other contributions funds, was under an obligation that expenses should not be more than 15% of the total income. He added: "I have no doubt this obligation is being well maintained. As far as the reserves are concerned, I am satisfied with the rapid growth of the Medical Benefits Fund. Instead of a reserve of £400,000 I would like to see a reserve of £4 million."

OPTOMETRICAL BILL APPROVED.

State Cabinet on August 10 approved a bill which will reconstitute the Board of Optometrical Registration.

The Minister for Health, Mr. M. O'Sullivan, drafted the bill.

The Premier, Mr. Cahill, said it provided for payment of fees to all board members except the Under-Secretary of the Department of Health. Board members are not paid for their work at present.

On the reconstituted board will be three registered optometrists (nominated by the Minister for Health from names submitted by organisations representing optometrists), a barrister or solicitor nominated by the Minister, a medical practitioner nominated by the B.M.A., a representative of the University of Technology (not an optometrist), and the Under-Secretary of the Department of Health.

WOMEN BEHIND IN BLOOD DONATIONS.

Women are not pulling their weight as blood donors, states the director of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, Dr. R. J. Walsh. On a proportionate basis, housewives were the lowest of any group in giving blood. Highest were male clerical and commercial workers.

Dr. Walsh makes an urgent appeal for blood to fill stocks which have been depleted. The blood would be used for people who were awaiting operations in hospitals.

Said Dr. Walsh, "Women are lagging in giving their blood. There are 70 male donors for every 30 women. During the war and immediately after the figures were



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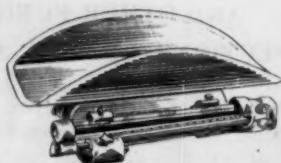
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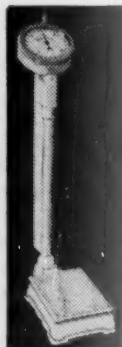
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NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

exactly reversed. Women are the chief users of blood which is given. A large part of the blood we supply is used for obstetrical and gynaecological cases.

"Perhaps the problem of leaving their children behind may have something to do with the poor response from housewives, but if they want to bring their children in here we'll look after them," he added.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Post-Graduate Course in Pharmacology for
Pharmaceutical Chemists.

Council is pleased to announce that it has arranged for the presentation of a series of 12 lectures entitled "Post-Graduate Course in Pharmacology for Pharmaceutical Chemists."

The lectures will be delivered by Professor R. H. Thorp, Ph.D. (Med.), B.Sc. (Lond.), in the No. 1 Theatre of the New Medical School, University of Sydney, at 8 p.m. (sharp) on the following dates (all Mondays):

September 6, 13, 20, 27; October 11, 18, 25 (no lecture on Monday, October 4—Eight Hours' Day); November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

The fee for the complete course of 12 lectures is £1/1/- Enrolment may be made by completing a form obtainable from the Secretary, Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales.

Enrolments cannot be accepted at the Theatre. As accommodation is limited, early enrolment is necessary.

ALLEGED ASSAULT.

A Dee Why chemist had knocked down and kicked a girl who testified against him in a recent court case, police alleged on July 21 in Manly Court.

Police said the chemist had "frothed at the mouth" in a frenzy when arrested yesterday, and alleged that he had also threatened to assault other witnesses in the case.

The chemist, David Franklin Duncum, 57, of Oaks road, Dee Why, was charged with having assaulted and occasioned bodily harm to the girl. Police alleged the girl's nose may have been broken.

Police Prosecutor Sgt. Field said she was one of a number of people who gave evidence against the chemist at a recent Quarter Sessions trial. Opposing bail, he said police feared Duncum might carry out threats against other witnesses.

Magistrate Debenham remanded Duncum until August 4 on £100 bail, on condition that he gave an undertaking not to molest the girl or other witnesses and that he sought medical attention.

HOSPITAL FUND TO MEET HOLIDAY PAY CLAIM.

Pedro Louis Alpha Shakeri, salesman, of Birtley place, Elizabeth Bay, told the Chief Industrial Magistrate (Mr. Isles) on July 26 he had earned as much as £50 a week selling medical benefits subscriptions.

Shakeri, in claiming £20/11/10 holiday pay from the Hospitals Contribution Fund of New South Wales, Elizabeth street, City, said he worked for the fund from July 6, 1953, until October 30, 1953, and had earned a total of £514/17/3.

Shakeri claimed that under the Annual Holidays Act he was entitled to one-twenty-fifth of his earnings as holiday pay.

He said that for the first two weeks he had earned £14 a week. His earnings on commission had then ranged from £22 to £40 a week. He lectured employees at factories and offices on the Hospitals Contribution Fund and the Medical Benefits Fund of Australia, and then invited employees to join the funds. He received instructions each day from the Fund.

Mr. J. A. Melville (for the Fund) submitted that Shakeri was not entitled to holiday pay.

Mr. Isles said the case was on the "border line." Shakeri had received daily instructions from the Fund, and the Fund had regarded him as employee for tax purposes.

Mr. Isles ordered the Fund to pay £20/11/10.

HOT-WATER BOTTLE BAN.

The Minister for Health, Mr. M. O'Sullivan, supports the Hospitals Commission's ban on the use of hot-water bottles in public hospitals.

"Hot-water bottles, unless they are properly looked after, can prove a danger to hospital patients," he said.

The chairman of the Hospitals Commission, Dr. A. B. Lilley, said that the instruction had been based on "the practice at Royal North Shore, Royal Newcastle, and St. George Hospitals, none of which gives hot-water bottles to patients. He was not aware that fool-proof self-insulating bottles were now on the market. "Until I have seen one—and had it tested—I can't say whether it would answer our objections," he said.

In the last 2½ years, the Government Insurance Office has received 13 claims, representing £4276, from people who were burnt by hot-water bottles while patients in hospitals.

The daily press carried letters from correspondents expressing opposition to the ban. In one report, the Hospitals Commission was described as being "behind the times" in banning hot-water bottles for patients in public hospitals.

A Sydney chemist said: "In the past few months we have received stocks of bottles from both English and Australian manufacturers which have a raised rubber pattern on them. The raised rubber makes it impossible for the hot inside 'skin' of the bottle to touch any part of a patient's body. Risk of burning has been reduced to the relatively rare occasions when a bottle is carelessly stoppered and leaks, or the even rarer cases when it may burst."

B.W. & CO. FILMS AT GOSFORD.

Group photograph hereunder was taken during supper at the Brisbane Water Club, Gosford, on the occasion of a film evening arranged by Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. (Aust.) Ltd. and the Brisbane Water District Pharmacists' Association.



Shown are, left to right, Mr. K. Johnson (B.W. & Co.), Mr. R. A. Vaughan (Gosford), Mr. J. Wyllie (Gosford), Mr. C. Deeth (B.W. & Co.), Mr. F. J. Kevin (Secretary of the Association), Mr. J. Doenau (B.W. & Co.), and Mr. A. Sourry (President, Brisbane Water Pharmacists' Association).

Included in the 45 guests present were Dr. Craig Duncan, Dr. A. D. Shirley, Dr. H. B. Little, Matron Knight and staff of Gosford District Hospital.

The B.W. & Co. film screening was the first "open night" held by the Association since its formation 12 months ago.



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SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

PROFESSOR THORP'S LECTURE AT NEWCASTLE.

Professor Thorp, Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Sydney, journeyed to Newcastle on August 18, under the auspices of the Pharmaceutical Society of N.S.W., to deliver to the members of the N.H.V.P.A., in his own inimitable style, a double-barrelled lecture on:

1. The present position in the drug treatment of hypertension.
2. Overseas pharmaceutical teaching establishments and curricula.

Over 60 members of the Association (including quite a good proportion of apprentices, both male and female) attended the Chamber of Manufactures Lecture Hall to hear Professor Thorp's address.

The President of the N.H.V.P.A., Mr. A. J. DeFina, in reintroducing Prof. Thorp, said it was a pleasure to him personally and as President to see Prof. Thorp back in Newcastle, and their thanks were due to the Society for so graciously arranging the lecture.

Before commencing his talk, Prof. Thorp said, "I always feel at home in Newcastle; the people are most friendly, the lecture room superb, and the atmosphere most informal."

The lecture was divided into two parts, hypertension being taken first. The subject matter, although most complex, was very carefully explained. Rudimentary explanation was given of the theoretical causes of hypertension and the treatment as improved greatly over the last five or six years, bringing the listeners right up to date with present-day clinical evaluations of Rauwolfia preparations and their combination with Hexamethonium type hypotensive drugs. It would be an understatement to say this lecture was really "on the ball."

After a short question period, the second and more informal portion of the evening took the form of a Kodachrome slide descriptive talk on the Professor's recent overseas tour, and his attendance at many American, Canadian, English and European pharmaceutical teaching centres. Some of the places visited and the schools seen were examples of what we in Australia, particularly N.S.W., have dreamt about for many years.

At the conclusion, Prof. Thorp gave a short resume of the "status quo" of pharmaceutical education in N.S.W. Although he had hoped for a much speedier implementation of the Government legislation for a new Pharmacy School, this point, after 12 months, was no closer.

A vote of thanks to Prof. Thorp was very ably moved by Mr. Mark Morris, who said the evening had been one of the most educational and enjoyable he had put in for many years. It was always a pleasure to be associated with such efforts of the Association, and the increased attendance itself spoke well of the organisation and good reception of this type of function. The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. Henry H. Wallis and carried by very warm acclamation. The meeting terminated at 10.30 p.m.

THE N.S.W. CHEMISTS' GOLF CLUB.

On August 24 a golf day was held at Elanora Country Club. Weather conditions were very summery, with the temperature at 86 degrees.

Once again Laurie Skinner showed his amazing ability as a golfer by turning in 37 points, playing from plus 4. His round of 68 off the stick equalled the amateur course record.

Four Ball:

Winners: J. Adams (12) and J. Bourke (5), 43 points.
Runners-up: A. Weir (10) and A. Hughes (13), 42 points, on a count back from R. Austin and H. Hennessy.

"A" Grade: L. Skinner (plus 4), 37 points.

"B" Grade: Os. Williams (14), 35 points, on a count back from Robert Rusk.

"C" Grade: Len Lubber, 31 points.

Annual Trophies.

These trophies, the F.P.J. Gray Memorial and the special "B" and "C" Grade trophy, are awarded to the best aggregate stableford score from the six games played during the year.

Once again Laurie Skinner won the F.P.J. Gray Memorial trophy, finishing too strongly for Cliff Gostelow, and in the "B" and "C" Grade A. Hughes finished ahead of Rupert Frew.

F.P.J. Gray Memorial Trophy.

Winner: L. Skinner, 188 points.

Runner-up: C. Gostelow, 179 points.

"B" and "C" Grade.

Winner: A. Hughes, 179 points.

Runner-up: R. Frew, 174 points.

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting was held at Elanora Country Club on August 24 at 6 p.m.

President Alan Weir, chairman. Eighty-five members attended.

In opening the meeting, the President apologised for the absence of the Hon. Secretary, Ralph Bray, who had to attend at the 113th A.G.H. In his absence, the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Rolland Bennet and confirmed, and the Treasurer's report and statement of accounts was accepted on the motion of Wally Pinerua, seconded by John Young.

President Alan Weir reported on the year's activities, and urged all members to work for an increased membership and the continued success of the club. He gave an outline of the suggested programme for the forthcoming visit of the Victorian Chemist Golfers' Club in May, 1955.

Election of Officers.

The following were elected, unopposed:—

President: Alan Weir.

Vice-President: Hymie Eizenberg and Phil Gray.

Hon. Secretary: Ralph Bray.

Hon. Treasurer: Jim Halcrow.

Hon. Handicapper: Phil Gray.

Publicity Officer: Ron Howland.

Committee:

Retail.

Warwick Rourke.

Rolland Bennett.

Jim Donovan.

Wally Pinerua.

Cliff Gostelow.

John Young.

Wholesale.

Ted Stewart.

Ray Walters.

Hop Webb.

Bill Timmony.

Jack Madigan.

Bob Crawford.

Annual Subscriptions.—On the motion of Wally Pinerua, seconded by Alan Hughes, the annual subscriptions were fixed at £1/10/- for metropolitan members and 10/- for country members.

Before presenting the trophies, Vice-President Hymie Eizenberg paid tribute to the amount of work done during the year by Jack Roberts in particular, and Ralph Bray, Phil Gray, Rolland Bennet, Alan Weir, and all Committee members.

The meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

INADEQUATE DETAILS IN MEDICAL CLAIMS.

In a report published in "The Sydney Morning Herald" of July 29, it was stated that spokesmen for two of the largest medical benefits fund organisations had said that their organisations had to return hundreds of claims each week because claimants did not supply all the information required in the claim forms.

Mostly, the details lacking were dates of consultations, doctors' names, and types of service.

The spokesman said that the Commonwealth, which supplements benefits payments by approved organisations, made these payments only if adequate details were supplied in the claims.

As far as the Commonwealth is concerned, these de-

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NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

tails need not include the nature of a consultation with a doctor. However, the manager of the Medical Benefits Fund of Australia, Mr. J. F. Cade, said that his organisation did require claimants to supply this information. He said this was necessary to establish whether the consultation concerned a condition on which a claim could be made against the M.B.F.A.

If, for instance, a person had been suffering from tuberculosis when joining the M.B.F.A., that person could not claim for consulting a doctor for that illness until two years after joining.

The head of the M.U.I.O.F. Medical Benefits Fund, Mr. A. J. Eade, said that most of the details lacking in claim forms were of a common nature. Many claimants merely wrote "X-ray," instead of specifying the X-rayed part of the body. This information was necessary because there were different benefits for different types of X-rays. Mr. Eade said, however, that the position was improving now, as doctors and claimant-patients became more familiar with what was required.

The secretary of the N.S.W. British Medical Association, Dr. J. Hunter, said it was the responsibility of the patient to ask his doctor to supply details for a benefits claim.

Difficulty in Obtaining Details.

The foregoing report was quickly followed by a correspondent ("H.E." of Lawson) writing:

"It is interesting to read the statement by the secretary of the N.S.W. British Medical Association that patients are responsible for asking doctors to supply details of ailments or treatment for a Medical Benefits Claim. Only this week I was told by my doctor's receptionist that patients know what treatment they receive and, therefore, could fill in the details themselves. The receptionist of a Macquarie street specialist assured me that the doctor had no responsibility to supply details, and that a stamped receipt is all that he need give the patient. A friend of mine had to wait 10 months before making a claim because the doctor refused to give him a receipt for each treatment, and issued only a composite one, with the date of each visit to the surgery, at the end of the income tax year."

Doctors' Viewpoint.

Another aspect of the "growing pains" associated with the Medical Benefits Scheme was voiced by Dr. J. Hunter, on behalf of the B.M.A., in an interview (reported by "S.M.H.," 30/7/54). He stated that dozens of doctors had complained to the N.S.W. branch of the British Medical Association that medical benefit societies required too much information from patients when settling claims, and that the only details about consultations or home visits required by the Commonwealth, which supplements benefits payments by approved organisations, were dates and doctors' names.

"If a patient asks for a statement on his disability, the doctor is quite at liberty to give it to him," Dr. Hunter said. "A doctor, however, it bound not to mention a patient's secrets to anyone else without the patient's authority."

In the same issue of the "S.M.H." the manager of the Medical Benefits Fund of Australia (Mr. J. F. Cade) is reported to have said that very few of the 10,000 claims which the fund dealt with weekly were returned to contributors for more information. "A contributor must state in his claim whether he has received a surgery consultation or a home visit, the doctor's name, dates of consultations or visits, and the type of service," Mr. Cade said. "When a person has an injection we want to know the type given to enable us to calculate the benefit correctly. Benefits for injections differ according to type in the Commonwealth schedule. X-rays also come under the heading of type of service. Contributors should say whether it is an arm, chest or leg X-ray because benefit rates differ."

THE NEWCASTLE & HUNTER VALLEY PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION.

Second Annual Chemists' Ball.

Scenes of gaiety and joyful entertainment were witnessed at the Second Annual Chemists' Ball held in Newcastle at the City Hall on the night of July 28.

The hall was decorated in outstanding style, there being over 30 completely decorated loges, as well as a very ornamented stage piece emblazoned with the



From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. J. Stevenson (Crippled Children's Association, Newcastle), Mr. A. J. DeFina (President N.H.V.P.A.) and Mrs. DeFina, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Newcastle (Alderman F. J. Purdue and Mrs. Purdue).

title of the night. Novelty menus in the form of prescription cards and headache powder supper tickets were presented to guests at the entrance. Special gifts were handed out to all lady partners at a special gift dispensary inside the doorway. Gifts included perfume, toilet soap, talcums, etc.

The official party consisted of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs. F. J. Purdue), the President of the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Pharmacists' Association (Mr. A. J. DeFina) and Mrs. DeFina, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of N.S.W. (Mr. A. E. Hall) and Mrs. Hall, the President of the Central Northern Branch of the B.M.A. (Dr. J. F. Sullivan) and Mrs. Sullivan, the President of the Pharmaceutical Guild, N.S.W. Branch (Mr. W. Smith) and Mrs. Smith, the Secretary of the N.H.V.P.A. (Mr. Samuel B. Morris) and Mrs. Morris, the President of



Mr. G. Shearman, pharmacy apprentice, handing out gifts at "gift bar" at Newcastle Chemists' Ball.

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NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

the Ball Committee (Mr. N. A. Lewis) and Mrs. Lewis, the Secretary of the Newcastle Branch of the Australian Dental Association (Mr. B. Dyson) and Mrs. Dyson, the representative of the Newcastle Branch of the Crippled Children's Association (Mr. J. Stevenson) and Mrs. Stevenson.

Whilst it would be hard to improve on the 1953 Ball, it can be said that this was very ably achieved by men of the Ball Sub-Committee, who under the capable leadership of Mr. N. A. Lewis consisted of Messrs. Tony DeFina, Jack Truscott, Jack Gamelin, Mark Morris and Jack Flanagan. Over 500 patrons attended in full evening dress, and the spectacle was one to remember.



From left to right: Mrs. N. A. Lewis, Mrs. S. B. Morris, Mrs. L. W. Smith and Mrs. B. Dyson.

At the time of going to press the final amount had not been ascertained, but it appears fairly certain that over £200 will be donated to the Newcastle Association for the Care of Crippled Children.

The thanks of the entire Association are due to those men who gave unstintingly of their time, energy and pocket, not only to provide us with a wonderful night's entertainment, but also to push up quite a few points the "marker of chemists popularity" in the north. We know all present, including the Sydney visitors, enjoyed themselves immensely, and we can look forward with much joyful anticipation to many such successful functions in the future.

Future Events.

September 15: Nicholas film and social night at Winns Shortland Room.

October 20: Annual meeting and election of officers of Newcastle and Hunter Valley Pharmacists' Association at Winns Shortland Room.

PHARMACY BOARD

Monthly Meeting

Board Meeting 9/3/54.

Present.—Messrs. L. Smith, A. West, C. Gostelow, G. Simpson, R. Hudspeth and O. Leggo.

Members elected Mr. L. Smith to preside in the absence of Mr. J. Townley.

Presentation of Registration Certificates.—Proposed arrangements by the Pharmaceutical Society were approved. The Registrar was requested to advise the Society and assist in the conduct of the meeting in view of his experience on other Boards.

Applications for Registration were approved as follows:—

Having Passed Qualifying Examination: Phillip Benjamin Bloom and Ida Janette Stewart.

By Restoration: Lee J. Nankivell, John W. Burchill and James R. Hosie.

By Reciprocal Agreement: John Louis Sest (from Victoria), Alarick D. Snell (from New Zealand), Donald Moore (from Tasmania) and Clifford Carter (from Western Australia).

Certificates of Identity Issued.—Julie Mintorn, Bruce Devine, Graham Croker and Kevin Worsley (all to Great Britain).

Acceptance of Leaving Certificates.—112.

Indentures.—Registrations comprised 77 new indentures, 15 transfers, 3 cancellations and 1 extension.

Poisons Act.—The following deaths from poisons were reported since last meeting, viz.: Barbiturates 9; Arsenic 4; Strychnine 3; Thallium 1; Nicotine 1; Cyanide 1; Allylisopropylacetylufen (Sedormid) 1; Chronic Oxide Cement 1; Lysol 2; Morphine Sulphate 1; Methylalcohol 1; Hydrochloric Acid 1.

Correspondence.—Chatswood/Willoughby U.F. Society, Depots for Scripts.—It was decided to advise this Society to seek legal advice regarding the questions raised.

P.A.A., Next Meeting.—The Board expressed itself in favour of the suggestion that the next Conference be held immediately following Section "O".

Poisons Advisory Committee.—The Chairman's advice that it would not be possible to appoint a temporary representative during Mr. Townley's absence was noted.

Use of Pill Machines, First Year Training.—The Board decided that pill machines, which were reported to be unprocurable in Sydney, be insisted upon as part of the equipment required for training apprentices.

New England University.—The Registrar was directed to continue to recognise passes in Chemistry I and Botany I obtained at the New England University, which was formerly a University College.

Guide to Apprentices, Report from Sub-Committee.—It was decided to order supplies from the Government Printer for distribution to first year apprentices. Miss M. Frith was to be thanked for her assistance in compiling the instructions.

Meeting closed 11 p.m.

Board Meeting, 13/4/54.

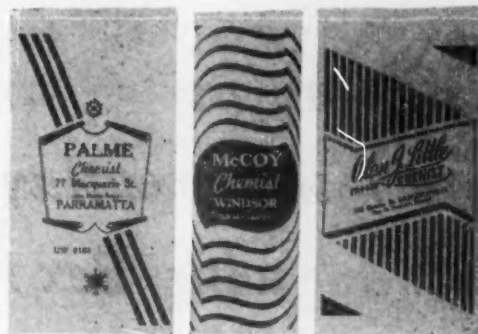
Present.—Mr. J. Townley (President), Messrs. West, Smith, Gostelow, Hudspeth and Dempster.

Training as Pharmacist, Under Secretary.—Advice received. The Registrar undertook to raise with the Department the question of reviewing the recent legislation on foreign chemists when the new degree course comes into operation.

Applications for Registration were approved as follows:—

Having Passed Qualifying Examination: Bernice Jocelyn Bryant, Raymond Leslie Coates, John Sinclair Coupland, Mrs Valerie Lillian Daniell, Robert MacDonald Dash, William Walter Dunkley, Brian Ell, Francis Reginald English, Peter Clifford Garske, Basil Charles Griffin, Roy Stuart Hawthorne, Margaret Isabel Hore, John Frederick Ernest Illingworth, Mary Edgington Jefferis, June Anne Jenkins, John Michael Jones, Lois Elizabeth Jones, Maureen Grace Kelly, Graham Albert Watson Laver, Peter Learmont, Edward Alfred Loomes, John Laurence McCotter, Peter John Maguire, Denise Joan Marsden, Geoffrey Cecil Middleton, Lionel Robert Morris, Peter Poulos, John Barry Prentice, Ronald Charles Quay, Dorothy Ranger, John Francis Regan, Judith Beryl Robbins, John Scott, Donald William Gordon Simpson, John Michael Smith, Peter Thrift, John Doidge Tucker, Mrs. Laura Florence Tulk, Warren Holmes Weston, Jean Margaret Whereat, Ilse Wise, James Walter Wood.

By Restoration: Harold C. Peisley, Doris M. Helman and Dennis Scott.



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NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

By Reciprocal Agreement: John Roy Dow (from Victoria), Thomas Edward Hanley (from Queensland), Herbert Joseph Goldman (from South Australia), Norman McQueen (from Great Britain) and Cedric Doric Everrett (from Western Australia).

Certificates of Identity Issued.—9 (all to Great Britain).

Section 11(e) Foreign. Report of Sub-Committee on Foreign Chemists.—These applications were referred back to the Committee for further review in the light of the new legislation in this matter.

Acceptance of Leaving Certificates.—50.

Indentures.—Registrations comprised 79 new indentures, 18 transfers, 4 cancellations, 2 extensions.

Poisons Act.—The following deaths from poisons had been reported since last meeting, viz.: Barbiturate 2. Cyanide 1.

A.S.T. Tablets, Northern Drug and Chemical Co.—The Board officially noted the fact that the Amphetamine Sulphate content of A.S.T. tablets had now been reduced to 1.9 milligrams per tablet, thus removing them from control under Restricted Drug Section of the Poisons Act.

Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

Board Meeting, 11/5/54.

Present.—Mr. J. Townley (President), Messrs. Smith, West, Dempster, Wright, Leggo, Hudspeth and Simpson.

Pharmacy Amendment Act, Foreign Chemists.—The Registrar informed the Board that this law was now in operation.

Applications for Registration were approved as follows:—

Having Passed Qualifying Examination: Don E. Birmingham, Douglas B. Heilman, Ronald F. Morrison, Philip K. Stanford, Mary Louise Walker, Robert John C. Wright.

By Reciprocal Agreement: James E. Crimmins (from Victoria), Ida M. Penman (from Victoria) and Charles Frederick Threlfall (from Queensland).

By Restoration: Keith Pither Cox and John Austin Buggy.

Foreign Applicants Under New Legislation.—Jan Borsky, Ernest Engel, Marek Leibesman, George Manche, Maria Willman, Otto Willman.

In view of the Sub-Committee's previous knowledge of these applicants' qualifications, and their ability to satisfy the provisions of Section 11(2)(a) and (b) of the Act, approval was granted for them to approach the University.

Certificates of Identity Issued.—5 (all to Great Britain).

Acceptance of Leaving Certificates.—4.

Indentures.—Registrations comprised 40 new indentures, 6 transfers, 2 cancellations and 1 suspension.

Poisons Act.—The following death from poison has been notified since last meeting:—Arsenic 1.

Pharmaceutical Education.—The Board decided to write to the University inquiring information as to what was being done to implement the introduction of the Degree Course in Pharmacy.

Meeting closed 10.15 p.m.

Board Meeting 8/6/54.

Present.—Mr. J. Townley (President), Messrs. West, Gostelow, Simpson, Smith and Wright.

Applications for Registration were approved as follows:—

Having Passed Qualifying Examination: Colin Albert Plummer and Alan John Chalmers.

By Restoration: Betty Joyce Batten, John Lindsay Donnison, Robert Mackinaly, Arthur Eric Wherrett.

For Consideration Section 11(e)(2): M. Somogyi, G. Urban, F. Batri, E. Furing, C. Farago Ferke, A. Fikar, T. Le Grazie and M. Parker.

With the exception of the last mentioned, all cases were referred to the Sub-Committee on Foreign Chemists. In Miss Parker's case, it was decided to write to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to ascertain certain details regarding the possibility of her registration there if she completed 12 months' service in New South Wales or elsewhere.

Certificates of Identity Issued.—Great Britain 4, Queensland 3.

Report of Sub-Committee on Foreign Chemists.—Arkady Berzins: Approval was granted for this applicant to approach the University.

Acceptance of Leaving Certificates.—3.

Indentures.—Registrations comprised 15 new indentures, 4 transfers, 1 cancellation and 1 suspension.

Poisons Act.—The following deaths from poisons had been notified since last meeting, viz.: Arsenic 1, Barbiturate 2, Hydrochloric Acid 1, Strychnine 2, Cyanide 1, Sedormid 1, Weed Killer (Nosco Brand) 1.

Pharmaceutical Association of Australia, B.P. and B.P.C. Revision.—A memorandum of proposals for amendments to B.P. submitted to B.P.C. Commission by Mr. A. W. Callister was noted.

Meeting closed 9.40 p.m.

Board Meeting, 13/7/54.

Present.—Mr. J. Townley (President), Messrs. Smith, Simpson, West and Wright.

The Board noted that Mr. Wright had been appointed as its technical adviser.

Applications for Registration were approved as follows:—

Having Passed Qualifying Examination: Margaret Mary Kevans, Maxwell St.G. Winnett, Denniss M. Reeves and Paul Francis Fallon.

By Reciprocal Agreement: Peter William Aanensen (from Victoria), William Charles Brauchett (from Victoria), Thomas G. Collins (from Victoria), John N. Peel (from Western Australia) and John K. Brosnan (from Queensland). Registration was granted in each case.

Certificates of Identity Issued.—Great Britain 4, South Australia 1, Queensland 1.

Duplicate Certificate.—Mr. R. O. Mason: Authority was granted for the issue of a duplicate Certificate of Registration.

Poisons Act.—The following deaths from poisons had been reported since last meeting, viz.: Ferrous Sulphate 1; Barbiturates 3; Strychnine 2; Phenolphthalein 1, Carbital 1.

Report of Sub-Committee on Foreign Chemists.—Mrs. C. Farago Ferke, Hungary; Mr. A. T. Fikar, Czechoslovakia; Mr. George Urban, Czechoslovakia; Miss E. Furing, Czechoslovakia; Mrs. T. Le Grazie, Italy; Mrs. M. Somogyi, Hungary; Mr. F. Batri, Hungary.

The certificates presented by each of these applicants were "recognised," and the applicants were to be referred to the University.

Acceptance of Leaving Certificates.—2.

Indentures.—Registrations comprised 5 new indentures, 8 transfers and 3 cancellations.

Pharmacy Board of Victoria, Pharmaceutical Benefits Legislation.—It was decided to write to the Director-General of Health, Canberra, in support of the Victorian Board's action.

Alpha Chemical Co. "Diphemine Alpha."—Referred to technical adviser.

Presentation of Certificates of Registration.—It was noted that the next presentation would be held on October 21.

J. C. Herral, Solicitor, Branch Shops.—To be informed that it is not the function of the Board to give legal advice of the nature sought.

"Tugon" Fly Mats.—To be referred to Section 21(1)(c) of the Poisons Act.

Meeting closed 9.30 p.m.

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VITAMIN E IN MEDICINE

CHRISTY C. J. Vitamin E in menopause: preliminary report of experimental and clinical study. *AM. J. OBSTET. GYNECOL.* 50, 84-7 (1945).

Treatment of severe symptoms of vasomotor instability was instituted in 25 patients, 22 to 55 years of age, of whom 1 was in the natural menopause and 24 in artificially instituted menopause. The daily dose given varied from 10 to 30 mg. tocopherol acetate, according to the degree of severity of the symptoms. Treatment was continued for 1 to 6 weeks depending upon the degree of response. The entire group of cases responded to the treatment and showed either complete relief or very marked improvement. No untoward after-effects were noted.

In some of the cases relief of vasomotor instability was more easily obtained with the use of vitamin E than with the use of estrogens; however, the chief advantage of vitamin E over estrogens is its freedom from stimulative effect on the genital system or on the parenchyma of the breast. Because vitamin E has no carcinogenic effect, it may be used quite freely in menopausal patients suffering from neoplasms.

FERGUSON H. E. The use of vitamin E in menopausal syndrome. *VIRGINIA MED. MONTH.* 75, 447-8 (1948).

Sixty of 66 patients with severe menopausal symptoms were completely relieved when treated with 15 to 30 mg. tocopherol daily. Occasionally, weekly intramuscular injections of 100 mg. of tocopherol were also required in stubborn cases. No objectionable side effects were noted.

RUBENSTEIN B. B. Vitamin E diminishes the vasomotor symptoms of menopause. *FED. PROC.* 7, 106 (1948).

Seventeen patients with severe vasomotor symptoms could not be relieved with barbiturates or placebos. All obtained prompt and complete relief with estrogens. In 14 of the 17 patients marked reduction in symptoms occurred on the administration of 75 mg. per day of Vitamin E. Only 6 obtained complete relief. Vitamin E may be useful in the treatment of those cases of severe menopausal symptoms in which estrogens are contraindicated.

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NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

August Meeting of the Board.

The regular meeting of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales was held on August 10, in the boardroom, Department of Public Health.

Present.—Messrs. J. L. Townley (President), L. Smith, C. Gostelow, S. Wright, E. Dempster, K. Cartwright, A. West, G. Simpson, O. Leggo.

Result of Election.—The Registrar informed the Board that Messrs. Leggo and Cartwright had been elected to the Board. The President welcomed Mr. Cartwright to the Board table.

Election of President.—By unanimous vote, Mr. J. L. Townley was re-elected President for the ensuing year.

Report by Mr. Wright on "Diphemine Alpha."—Mr. Wright informed the Board that Diphemine compounds were at present not under control.

Applications for Registration were approved as follows:—

Having Passed Qualifying Examination: Gladys Florence Ann Bagnall and Saxon Sorenson.

By Reciprocal Agreement: Alex McCulloch (from New Zealand) and Stanley Drake (from Great Britain).

By Restoration:—Henry Edward Perry and Guy Reginald Bohun.

Certificate of Identity was issued to Miss Patricia Manfred (to Great Britain).

Indentures.—Registrations comprised 2 new indentures and 5 transfers.

Poisons Act.—The following deaths from poisons have been notified since last meeting, viz.:—A.P.C. 1, strychnine 1, paraldehyde 1, hydrochloric acid 2, barbiturates 2, salicylic acid 1.

Correspondence.—Zoology Department, University of Sydney: Writer to be referred to the Pharmacy Department at the University.

Control of Chlordane—Labels Submitted: Firm to be advised in terms of Regulation 13 of the Poisons Act.

Hormone Content in Liquid Cleansing Creme: This product, containing natural estrogenic hormones, was considered to be a restricted drug, confined to sale by chemists on the authority of a doctor's prescription. Firm to be advised accordingly.

Pentachlor Phenol: Listed under Schedule 2 as a Chlorinated Phenol.

Poisons Act—Summary of Conditions.—The Board approved as an official statement the summary of the Poisons Act which appeared under the Registrar's name in a special issue of the "Gilseal News" (N.S.W.) in July, 1954.

Retirement of Mr. R. Hudspeth.—The Board placed on record its appreciation of the work done by Mr. R. Hudspeth during his appointment as a Board member. Meeting closed 10 p.m.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

Council Meeting

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales met at "Science House," 157 Gloucester street, Sydney, on August 3, at 7.45 p.m.

Present.—Messrs. E. G. Hall (Chairman), K. A. Cartwright, A. F. Winterton, A. W. West, H. W. Read, W. R. Cutler, J. F. Plunkett, J. L. Townley, B. G. Fegent, K. H. Powell, S. E. Wright and G. G. Benjamin.

Applications for Membership were approved as follows:

Full Members: Mrs. Valerie Lillian Daniell, Killara; Terence Abraham Murphy, Granville; Maxwell St.

George Winnett, Bellevue Hill; John Edward Stanton, Campsie.

Reinstatement: Pamela Margaret Johnston, Bellevue Hill.

Advanced to Full Membership.—Allen Ronald Armstrong, Lindfield; Margaret Louise Frith, Wahroonga.

Reinstatement and Advancement: Ilse Wise, Bondi.

Associate Members: Jeanette Goldie Harrison and Antony John Bruce Patterson.

Convicted Persons—Eligibility for Membership.—Mr. Hall said an answer was needed to the question: What attitude does the Society Council adopt towards chemists who have been found guilty of fraud or other misdemeanour under the National Health Act.

Mr. Hall said he referred to those who had been convicted by a court, not those who had been called before a Disciplinary Committee to explain.

Mr. Read said he felt that if a person was convicted for fraud, he should no longer be a member of the Society.

Mr. Wright said it was always possible for a person to apply again for membership at some future date if he or she had been refused membership, or, in fact, expelled.

Mr. Fegent said such a person would have to be called before the Council before it could exclude them from membership.

Mr. Powell said that any person found guilty should be automatically ineligible for membership. Each case should be taken on its own merits. If a man was found guilty by a court of law of fraud he should be automatically excluded.

The secretary invited attention to Article No. 22 as follows, dealing with exclusion of members:

"22. Any member who shall fail in the observance of any regulation of the Society or of any regulation or order of the Council or who shall in the judgment of the Council have been guilty of any act or practice or conduct calculated to bring discredit on the Society or to lower its status may be excluded from the Society by a resolution of the Council. Such member shall upon demand by the Council give an explanation within 30 days to the Council and in default thereof or if such explanation be unsatisfactory to the Council he may be expelled from the Society and shall thereupon cease to be a member."

Mr. Townley said that by committing offences persons avowed they were not fit and proper to associate with the other members of the Society.

Mr. Cutler favoured adherence to the provisions of the articles.

Mr. Plunkett said: "If a person is going to commit an offence it will not be one of the younger ones."

Mr. Hall enquired, "Are we going to ignore Article 22?"

Mr. Powell enquired what was to be done with those members who had already offended and had been convicted.

Moved Mr. Cartwright, seconded Mr. Wright, that Council carry out the provisions of Article 22. Carried.

Mr. Powell said: "Is it your intention to invoke Article 22 against those already found guilty?"

It was decided to submit the names of the three persons who had been found guilty of offences to the next meeting of Council for further discussion of the matter.

Formula for Honorary Membership.—Mr. Read said that a member must have done something in particular to merit honorary membership.

Mr. Powell said that old members had been made honorary members in the past.

Mr. Hall said that honorary members were dealt with in Articles 11 and 12.

Mr. Plunkett thought that if a member had 40 years'

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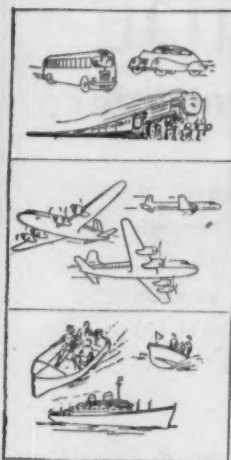
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NEW SOUTH WALES (Continued)

membership upon retirement he should be eligible for honorary membership.

Mr. Cartwright said there should not be any fixed stipulation at all.

After further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Cutler, seconded Mr. Townley, that the Articles stand as they are now on the subject.

Concerning the Fellows of the Pharmaceutical Society of N.S.W., Mr. Cutler said that when the list of honorary members was being reviewed in April next he would be prepared to move that selected persons be made Fellows.

Quotations for Diplomas.—After consideration of three quotations, it was decided to accept the quotation of Simmons Ltd. for 1000 Diplomas.

Presentation of Certificates of Registration.—Mr. Hall said that the Stawell Hall had been looked for Thursday, October 21, for the ceremony and Mr. Cosgrave had been so advised. It was confirmed that the Minister for Health would be invited to present the certificates and prizes.

Fair-Renting of Suite at Science House.

Determination.—The secretary read a letter from Solicitor K. W. Draper, advising that the rent had been determined but no credit had been given for the sum of £1600 advanced by the Society when the lease of the suite was entered into.

Pharmacy Ball, 1954.—Mr. Hall said there would be a composite table near the official table. Councillors who were not forming their own parties could occupy this table. Mr. Cartwright would be in charge of the composite table.

Mr. Townley said the Pharmacy Ball had got out of hand; only 10% of those who attended were pharmacists, the others were wholesalers, manufacturers, etc. It would be better if a limit were placed on the attendance, say, 250 and the ball limited to pharmacists.

First Year Apprentices' Lectures, 1954.—It was reported that the examination would be held on August 17 in the Anderson-Stuart Lecture Theatre, 1st floor, Old Medical School.

Mr. Wright said, "You will need to provide your own supervisors—four will be necessary. The caretaker will put a notice up indicating the route to the theatre."

Mr. Fegent took exception to the holding of several examinations on the same day. There should be some co-operation to ensure that examinations did not coincide. In some pharmacies with three apprentices they would all be away on the same day, making it most difficult for the proprietor to carry on. Mr. Fegent said he took great exception to the lack of consideration evident in this matter. The master pharmacist should not have all his staff depleted on the one day. Mr. Fegent requested the matter should not recur.

Country Visits, 1954.—Mr. Hall and the secretary reported on the visit to Goulburn on August 1. The attendance had been small, and it appeared that the interval of 12 months between meetings was too small to generate enthusiasm amongst zone members.

Lismore Meeting.—It was decided to suggest that no meeting be held this year in view of the serious floods which had devastated the Lismore-Grafton area.

Tamworth Meeting.—It was decided to write to Mr. Neville Hall making a firm date for the zone meeting at Tamworth to be held during October.

Concerning the Mid-Western Zone meeting on November 7, the secretary was asked to enquire from Mr. Blomfield whether the venue would be Bathurst or Orange.

Post-Graduate Course of Pharmacology.—Mr. Hall said there was a good enrolment in a short time. Seventy-one had so far submitted their names.

Week-end Camp at Castlereagh, September 25 and 26.

—Mr. Benjamin said that in respect of the week-end camp, he could see no reason why a chemist would leave his home to go up and spend Saturday night at the camp and come back on Sunday. The idea of the camp was to get together for a week-end to discuss matters on a happy family basis. Instead of the camp at Castlereagh he suggested that a block booking be made of a hotel or guest house and to abandon the idea of a week-end camp. "Have the week-end at a hotel. Block book a hotel. The idea was to get pharmacists together to discuss things," said Mr. Benjamin.

Mr. Hall enquired what time would be available to discuss matters during the week-end, with other distractions provided at the hotel or guest house.

Mr. Benjamin said his suggestion was to cut the "roughing" down.

Mr. Fegent said he still could not see why a week-end camp at Castlereagh should not be tried. The matter should be pursued.

Mr. Hall read a letter to Mr. Muir, of the Teachers' College, dated April 12, 1954, reserving the camp at Castlereagh.

Mr. Benjamin said his suggestion for a hotel or guest house would be an improvement on the summer camp idea.

After further discussion it was decided to retain the week-end camp at Castlereagh.

It was mentioned that the committee which was organising the camp was composed of Messrs. Plunkett, Benjamin, Winterton, with Mr. Williams as a co-opted member.

Mr. Fegent declined to join the committee in place of Mr. Plunkett, who said he was prepared to withdraw in favour of Mr. Fegent.

The matters of publicity, enrolment, etc., were referred to the sub-committee for attention.

Correspondence.—A.N.Z.A.A.S., seeking suggestions concerning the future of A.N.Z.A.A.S. in view of the fact that the Australian Academy of Science had been formed with headquarters at Canberra, and following on this the Australian National Research Council would consider in August, 1955, the subject of its own disbanding. It was decided to seek further details of what was meant before offering a suggestion.

Professor Thorp, re lecture at Newcastle on August 18, stating lecture will fall into two parts—"Some Aspects of Pharmacy Overseas" and "The Present Position of the Drug Treatment of Hypertension."

N.U.P.S.A., replying to the Society's letter re "Survey on Aspects of Apprenticeship." Stating that replies have been used to give a broad picture of the position in each State. Further stating that the results will be discussed with the Guild and that results of the poll may not yet be published. It was decided to ask N.U.P.S.A. for a questionnaire form, which they had not provided.

S.U.P.A., regarding the proposed floor show at the Pharmacy Ball. Advising that the date of the ball follows closely that of the day set for the Pharmacognosy Examination and that as most of the artists are Mat. Med. students they would have little time for rehearsals. Received.

Mr. W. B. Larkin, Balgowlah, protesting against the recent addition of 14 drugs to the D.D. List. Suggesting Society should take this matter up, as chemists were becoming slaves to restrictions and regulations.

General.—Mr. Plunkett said that Mr. John G. Cunneen had been selected in the N.S.W. golf team. It was decided to write and congratulate Mr. Cunneen.

Mr. Cutler said that he had recently visited Brisbane, where he had conveyed the greetings of Council to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.

The meeting terminated at 11 p.m.

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VICTORIA

PERSONAL and GENERAL

State News

Members in Victoria desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Editor (FJ 5161).

Mr. A. A. Cooper has been appointed manager of Israel's Pharmacy, Mildura.

Mr. R. F. Phillips has been appointed manager, St. Kilda Community Chemist.

Mr. F. J. Ferguson has been appointed manager of Gear's Pharmacy, 7 Sturt street, Ballarat.

Mr. J. G. Kellas, who has been relieving in Victoria, has returned to Lismore, N.S.W.

Mrs. J. Buck has been appointed manager Box Hill U.F.S. Dispensary in place of Miss F. Mellor.

Miss V. N. Holland has taken a permanent position with Mr. D. McG. Barker's pharmacy at Oakleigh.

Mr. C. J. Mitchell is in charge of Mr. V. J. Gild's pharmacy, Melbourne, during his absence in South Africa, visiting his father, who is ill.

Mr. H. W. Shilton advises that he has taken Mr. A. L. Anderson into partnership in Shilton's Pharmacy, Warrnambool.

Mrs. M. Harbourn has resigned her position as assistant at Mr. T. A. Wild's pharmacy, Ararat, and has been relieving manager at U.F.S. Dispensary, Ararat.

Misses Margaret M. Farnan and Patricia Vernon will leave for England on the "Strathnaver" on September 14. They expect to spend about 18 months abroad, and hope to visit the Continent and Canada.

Brunswick and Coburg U.F.S. Dispensary notify that they have opened two dispensaries, at 1071 Sydney road, Merlynstone (with J. S. Albon as manager), and 76 Cumberland road, Pascoe Vale (with D. F. Clark as manager).

Lieutenant R. Hensby has returned to Australia after service as a pharmaceutical officer with the forces in Japan. He is to take up a posting with R.A.A.M.C. in N.S.W.

Mr. A. W. Harris has sold his pharmacy at Portarlington to Mr. E. W. Price, a recent arrival from England, and plans to open a new pharmacy at Labuan Square, Norlane, near Geelong, in September.

Mr. T. P. Lane, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Daylesford, has been selected as A.L.P. candidate for the Ballarat North Legislative Assembly seat. This seat represents North Ballarat, Creswick, Clunes, Daylesford and Trentham. We wish Mr. Lane success in his candidature.

Mr. E. F. Lipsham, who has charge of the teaching of pharmacy in the University of Adelaide, visited Melbourne during the August vacation for discussions with the Dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, and heads of departments and representatives of various pharmaceutical activities and interests.

Engagement.—The engagement is announced of Alison Vera, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tidd, of Glen Iris road, Glen Iris, to George Knox, only son of Mr. G. K. Veitch, of Casterton, and the late Mrs. G. K. Veitch. Miss Tidd qualified in 1951. Her fiancé is a dentist. Congratulations!

Lt.-Col. F. E. Kiel, of the Australian Regular Army staff, has been appointed Military Attache in Djakarta, and will be away from Australia for two years. Accompanied by his wife, Lt.-Col. Kiel will leave about the middle of September. Lt.-Col. Kiel qualified from the Victorian College of Pharmacy in 1937, and subsequently took up a military career.

Miss Valerie N. Holland has returned to Victoria after 12 months in New South Wales and Queensland. After

attending the twentieth Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference in Sydney in August, 1953, Miss Holland undertook relieving work in and around Sydney, and in December travelled to Queensland, where she did further relieving, and attended the N.U.P.S.A. Conference held at Caloundra in January, 1954. Subsequently Miss Holland acted as locum at pharmacies in Cairns and Atherton. After a two-months' holiday in Northern Queensland, she has returned, and has taken a position with Mr. D. MacG. Barker at Oakleigh.

Miss Alison Frankel returned to Victoria during August, after having been in Indonesia for 13 months. During her stay in Indonesia Miss Frankel worked in hospital pharmacies and in retail pharmacies. She was the only Australian pharmaceutical chemist working in Indonesia during the period, although there were a number of Dutch and German chemists and chemists of other nationalities. Miss Frankel states that she enjoyed the experience. She worked alongside of Indonesians, most of whom were able to speak English fluently. Indonesia until recently had no facilities whatever for training of pharmaceutical chemists. At the present time there is difficulty in meeting the country's needs, and pharmaceutical chemists from other countries who are willing to accept services under the conditions offered are needed.

Business Changes.

New pharmacies have been opened at the addresses indicated:

Mr. A. E. Jaggs, 472 South road, Moorabbin.

Mr. R. H. Macaulay, 147 Bell street, East Preston.

Mr. A. D. Kosky, 29 Beachley street, Sunshine.

W. N. and W. A. Grigg, 256 Lower Heidelberg road, East Ivanhoe.

Mr. A. G. Doolan, Olinda.

Mr. A. W. Harris, Labuan Square, Norlane.

Mr. K. O. Benson, 504 Sydney road, Brunswick.

Changes of ownership:

Mr. H. W. Wiltshire has purchased A. Sheridan's pharmacy, Mentone.

Mr. B. J. Hawkins has purchased J. W. Dammary's pharmacy, North Melbourne.

Mr. J. W. Dammary has purchased J. W. L. Skepper's pharmacy, North Brighton.

Mr. J. W. L. Skepper has purchased from Mrs. B. M. Carter the old-established pharmacy of Ogg & Co., Melbourne.

Mr. A. V. Taylor has purchased Wilson's pharmacy, Apollo Bay.

Mr. A. E. Mallalieu has purchased L. Rotman's pharmacy, Bendigo.

Mr. E. W. Price has purchased A. W. Harris' pharmacy, Portarlington.

Mr. G. F. Troup has purchased E. W. Casper's pharmacy, 218 Union road, Ascot Vale.

Mr. N. E. Chong has purchased I. A. F. Maclean's pharmacy, Fitzroy.

Mr. G. A. Saunders has purchased the pharmacy of the late H. C. Morieson, Glenferrie.

Mr. V. M. Dreher has purchased E. M. DeBoos' pharmacy, Rosebud.

MANAGERS AND RELIEVERS: AUGUST LIST.

Reliever.	Pharmacy.
Ayscough, C. L. . . .	H. C. Bray, Cowes.
Adamson, Miss V. M. . .	Miss M. Rollison, Romsey.
Adamson, Miss V. M. . .	R. B. Cummins, Benalla.
Barber, W.	W. H. Wallace Phcy., Frankston.
Barker, J. F.	J. O. Adams, Monbulk.
Barr, M.	W. C. Haworth, Albert Park.
Chappill, G. B.	H. W. Jones, St. Kilda.
Chappill, G. B.	L. Egan, Coburg.
Chappill, G. B.	Miss E. Rose, Yallourn.
Durant, Miss C.	J. J. Coghlan, Yarraville.
Durant, Miss C.	F. P. Denton, Hawthorn.
Durant, Miss C.	A. C. Evans, Balaclava.
Everett, C. D.	E. N. Egerton, Cheltenham.



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VICTORIA (Continued)

MANAGERS AND RELIEVERS.—Continued.

Golding, Z.	Dyde's Pharmacy, Caulfield.
Galvin, A. T.	R. S. Miller, Carlton.
Gunner, G. K.	H. A. Synman, Melbourne.
Gunner, G. K.	A. W. Wright, Oakleigh.
Gunner, G. K.	Est. H. L. Kittle, Highett.
Gurry, L. F.	L. M. Wilson, Apollo Bay.
Hall, K. R.	Miss O. Malone, Pascoe Vale.
Hart, L. E.	T. R. Beckett, Elwood.
Halprin, M.	A. M. Fulton, North Clayton.
Halprin, M.	B. F. Huntsman, Camberwell.
Hayes, R. A.	E. A. Lansdown, Essendon.
Hornby, B. C.	R. V. Khyat, Melbourne.
Kellas, J. G.	A. L. Vance, Stawell.
Jacobson, B. L.	Miss M. L. Sharp, Myrtleford.
Jacobson, B. L.	G. Cohen, Darebin.
Jones, H. M.	C. R. Reeve, Malvern.
Jones, H. M.	Miss F. Smalley, Armadale.
Lang, I. D.	Marshall's Pharmacy, Carlton.
Lang, I. D.	Mrs. Wheeler, Ascot Vale.
London, D. W.	W. F. B. Porz, Carnegie.
Miller, J.	U.F.S. Dispensary, Fairfield.
Miller, J.	E. N. Egerton, Cheltenham.
Miller, J.	Dicksons Pharmacy, Melbourne.
Mann, D.	H. L. Lee, Prahran.
Macmillan, Mrs.	W. L. Hilyard, Collingwood.
Pickford, W. G.	J. Boltin, Footscray.
Portch, Miss J. M.	D. W. F. Bourne, Coburg.
Portch, Miss J. M.	Mrs. V. G. Sherrington, Casterton.
Rebecchi, J.	F. W. Sammons, Black Rock.
Rundle, A. B.	R. B. Cummins, Benalla.
Ryall, R.	P. A. H. Wright, Springvale.
Ryall, R.	A. J. Broberg, Carnegie.
Sumner, Mrs. L. M.	Miss M. Jepson, St. Kilda.
Tattam, D. W.	F. Tattam, East Kew.
Taylor, A. V.	J. R. Cunningham, Melbourne.
Todd, Miss V.	Mrs. M. G. Ley, Mentone.
Vail, H. H.	E. McDougall, Carrum.
Vail, H. H.	D. H. Trigg, Cranbourne.
Westlake, A. G.	E. G. Leete, Balaclava.
Westlake, A. G.	J. K. Gosstray, Elsternwick.
White, J.	A. Portbury, Coburg.

OBITUARY.

Douglas Warrick Braddy.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Douglas Warrick Braddy, which occurred on July 28. Mr. Braddy qualified at the Victorian Final Examination in December, 1941, and had for some time been conducting a pharmacy at Cohuna. Prior to his death Mr. Braddy had been in ill-health, and recently had to give up personal control of his business.

Frederick Damyon.

It is with great regret that we report the death of Mr. Frederick Damyon, which occurred on August 1. Mr. Damyon was registered in 1896, after having passed the Victorian Final Qualifying Examination. He was for a considerable time in business in St. Kilda. At the time of his death he was living at Belgrave in retirement. He is survived by a widow, son, and daughter, to whom we extend our sympathy.

INQUEST ON DOCTOR.

Evidence that a medical practitioner had taken drugs for 3½ years, and was deregistered by the British Medical Association for a period, was given in the Coroner's Court, Benalla, on August 11.

The Coroner, Mr. J. C. Bell, found that Dr. John William Lee-Atkinson, 42, of Violet Town, died from asphyxia, due to a toxic condition.

Senior-detective Donald Stewart Ritchie, of the Police Drug Bureau, Melbourne, said he learned that Dr. Lee-Atkinson had received treatment for drugs, and, for

a period in 1952, he was deregistered as a medical practitioner. Lee-Atkinson, said Ritchie, had stated to him in October, 1953, that he was still taking drugs, and would never cease taking them.

DISCUSSION GROUP: AUGUST MEETING.

Mr. Pearson, of the St. John Ambulance Association, was the guest speaker at a group meeting held at the College of Pharmacy on August 11.

In the absence of the President (Mr. John Oxley,) who was attending a Discussion Group meeting at Castlemaine, Mr. Geoff Leete took the chair, and introduced Mr. Pearson to the members present.

Mr. Pearson opened his talk by stating that the basic requirements for a knowledge of first aid were anatomy and physiology. He also expressed the view that it was a great advantage to begin learning first aid from an early age.

The speaker then outlined what were regarded as the Principles of First Aid, which are as follows:—

(i) Death must not be presumed because the patient appears to be dead.

(ii) Always remove the patient if possible from the cause of the injury.

(iii) Poisons which have been swallowed must be removed.

(iv) Skin which is broken should be treated with antiseptic or sterile gauze.

(v) Don't remove clothing, as it keeps the patient warm and often prevents shock.

Mr. Pearson then stressed the point that first aid assistance was never intended to take the place of medical advice, but only to give the patient relief until the services of a doctor could be obtained.

The principal points of first aid were next discussed under the following headings:—

(i) Shock.

(ii) Haemorrhage.

(iii) Artificial respiration.

Shock is usually indicated by pallor of the face and lips, with beads of perspiration round the forehead, while breathing is rapid. In cases of shock the patient should be laid on the back, with the head turned to one side, to prevent the tongue falling back into the windpipe. The patient should be kept warm to prevent a fall in temperature, and blood pressure, but should not be allowed to become so overheated that a loss of fluid will result.

Haemorrhage, the speaker warned, was a phase of first aid which called for prompt action, as delay in treatment could result in the death of the patient. He said the best way to control haemorrhage was by pressure, if possible directly on the wound. The ruptured edges of the wound should be held together, and then covered with lint, gauze or a clean handkerchief. Cotton wool and a bandage should then be applied until the bleeding stops.

Dealing with artificial respiration, the speaker said the main idea was to first get the patient into the open air. When a patient is taken from the sea, the water must first be allowed to drain out of the body before artificial respiration is applied.

Mr. Pearson cited a case where a person whom he had once seen, although apparently dead, was revived after a long period of artificial respiration, which emphasised the extreme importance of this branch of first aid.

Fractures were then dealt with. The speaker explained that fractures were evident by extreme pain and loss of power in the limb, accompanied by swelling.

Mr. Pearson then invited the audience to ask any questions they desired, and he continued to display his excellent knowledge of the subject by the very detailed answers he supplied.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Geoff Leete thanked Mr. Pearson for giving up so much of his valuable time to address the meeting, and asked the members present to donate as much as they desired

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Lever Brothers wish to thank all chemists who participated and helped to make the New Lifebuoy Contest such a grand success.

VICTORIA (Continued)

towards a collection, which would be forwarded to St. John Ambulance Association from the Discussion Group, to assist in the very valuable work done by this honorary body.—J.S.B.

PHARMACY BOARD

Monthly Meeting

The Pharmacy Board of Victoria met at 360 Swanston street, Melbourne, on August 11, at 9.30 a.m.

Present.—Mr. H. A. Braithwaite (President), in the chair; Messrs. S. J. Baird, A. W. Callister, W. R. Iliffe, A. W. McGibbony, W. Wishart and the Registrar.

Correspondence.—Formal correspondence was tabled. Letters dealt with included the following:—

To Editor, "Gilseal News" (Victoria), forwarding notes re provisions of Dangerous Drug Regulations in relation to making inventory of Dangerous Drugs on change of business, and need for submission to Board of Statutory Declaration concerning loss of Dangerous Drug records.

From a country chemist, inquiring as to liability for retaining prescriptions for Dangerous Drugs when lodge members' books are presented. Advised that such prescriptions must be detached, cancelled and retained.

From Pharmacy Board of N.S.W., forwarding copies of Pharmacy (Amendment) Act, 1954.

From Inspector Hobley, asking that the Board make arrangements for a lecture to Detective Training School on September 30. The communication stated that the last lecture given by the President was eminently

satisfactory. Mr. Braithwaite said he would be pleased to deliver the lecture on September 30.

To Mr. J. B. Pyman, notifying him of appointment as co-examiner with Mr. A. W. Callister in the subject of Pharmaceutics in the Intermediate Examination.

From the Police Department, New South Wales, forwarding copy of proclamation, adding a number of substances to the Schedule of Dangerous Drugs in that State.

To Pharmacy Boards in other States, advising of the Board's decision to introduce a written paper in Forensic Pharmacy at the Final Examination, and inviting comment on the suggestion that applicants for registration under reciprocal agreements might be required to pass such examination prior to being granted registration.

To a chemist, advising that the Board did not approve of the use of loose-leaf systems for keeping Dangerous Drug records.

To the Victorian Branch of the Guild, stating that on several occasions the Board had considered the question of exemption from Specified Drugs Regulations of stock medicines containing anti-biotics other than penicillin, but expert opinion was unfavourable to such action.

From the Victorian Branch of the Guild, thanking the Board for making the services of Mr. F. H. Burton available for coding price list, showing classification of drugs under Poisons Schedules.

To the Manager of a Friendly Society Dispensary, intimating that the Board did not consider cupboards with glass doors as suitable for storage of Dangerous Drugs.

The correspondence submitted was formally received.

Formal Business.—The following formal business was transacted:—

Application for Registration.—An application from Mr. M. K. P. Busby was granted, subject to receipt of

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Distinctively-coloured tablets containing:

aneurine hcl.	1 mg.
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* Rakoff A. E., Rasahkis K. E., Cantarow A. — J. Clin Endocrinol 7:688 1947.



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VICTORIA (Continued)

documentary evidence of identity and current registration from the Registrar, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.

Restoration of Names to Registrar.—Jean Florence E. Green (Mrs. R. W. S. Chester), Robert Alphonsus Hayes, Claude Stephen Davis, Jean Christina Nilsen (Mrs. Inkster).

Erasures from Register.—Douglas Warrick Braddy (dec. 28/7/54), Frederick Damyon (dec. 1/8/54), George William Sobee (dec. 8/6/54).

Managers and Relievers Notified.—48.

Business Changes Notified.—7.

Openings.—19.

Apprenticeship Indentures Registered.—1.

Apprenticeship Indentures Transferred.—2.

Apprenticeship Indentures Suspended.—1.

Certificates of Identity Issued.—3.

Opium Permits Issued.—17.

Licences as General Dealers in Poisons Issued.—5.

Licences to Sell Poisonous Substances Issued.—18.

Police Reports re Poisonings.—1 Phenobarbitone—Fatal; 2 Strychnine—Fatal; 1 Physeptone—Fatal.

Control of Specified Drugs.—Further consideration was given to the proposed amendment of the Regulations to provide for control of custody, distribution, etc., of Specified Drugs by wholesale distributors, manufacturers, hospitals and other authorised persons.

The President said at a special meeting of the Board, held earlier in the month, general principles for such control had been laid down. The Board approved of these principles as set out in the minutes, and it was agreed that certain aspects of the proposals should be discussed with organisations involved prior to final drafting.

National Service Training.—A request for reconsideration of his application for acceptance of time spent in National Service Training at a R.A.A.F. hospital was received from an apprentice. The Board had before it also a statement from the Department of Air concerning conditions under which such service was carried out. After consideration it was resolved that the earlier decision of the Board, that the period of training be not accepted as portion of the compulsory period of apprenticeship, be confirmed.

Inspectors' Reports, Inquiries, Etc.:

Spirits of Salts in Beer Bottle.—The Board directed that the distributors be instructed to recall immediately all supplies which had been issued, and that consideration be given to instituting legal proceedings.

Rat Poison in Paper Bag.—A report was received that rat poison containing Warfarin was being distributed in paper bags. Instructions had been issued to Inspector Ahern to warn the company concerned of the likelihood of such preparations being covered by the Fourth Schedule to the Poisons Act.

Specified Drugs in Private Hospitals.—A report was received concerning Specified Drugs found by Inspector Ahern and an officer of the Police Department when they visited two private hospitals. The drugs had been seized. Subsequently a pharmacy had been visited, and the provisions of the Regulations relating to the supply of drugs to hospitals explained. The President said he would personally visit the chemist, and give further instruction.

Sale of Pitts Wheat.—It was reported that a storekeeper was selling Pitts Wheat without obtaining a signature of the customer in the Poisons Book. A warning was issued, and the Board's inspector was advised that sale of this preparation would be discontinued.

Illegal Sale of Camphorated Oil, Etc.—A visit to a suburban storekeeper disclosed that Camphorated Oil and other prohibited lines were in stock. On being warned, the restricted lines were withdrawn by the

storekeeper. Inspector Ahern reported that wholesale suppliers of these lines were to be interviewed.

Sodium Fluoroacetate.—The Registrar reported on an interview with the Secretary, Department of Health, and Chief Health Officer concerning control of this substance. He said it was proposed that immediate action be taken to impose control under the Health Act, and that the Poisons Act be amended so that adequate safeguards might be introduced by Regulations.

Financial.—The Treasurer drew attention to a serious deterioration in the finances of the Board. He pointed out that the Board was now working on an overdraft, and that there was little prospect of this position being rectified unless some provision was made for additional income.

After discussing the situation, it was resolved that the Minister be requested to introduce an amendment of the Medical Act, Part III, to permit of an increase in the annual Registration Fee to an amount not exceeding £3/3/.

The meeting terminated at 1.30 p.m.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

Council Meeting

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria met at 360 Swanston street, Melbourne, on August 4, at 9.30 a.m.

Present.—The Acting President, Mr. Eric Scott, in the chair; Mrs. P. A. Crawford, Messrs. S. J. Baird, L. Hamon, A. L. Hull, F. W. Johnson, L. Long, V. G. Morieson, C. P. A. Taylor, and the Secretary. Mr. K. G. Attiwill attended for part of the meeting.

Correspondence.—Formal correspondence was tabled. Letters submitted to the Council included the following:—

To the President, Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand, conveying Council's endorsement of recommendation re calling meeting of Federal Medico-Pharmaceutical Liaison Committee.

To the Victorian Branch of the Guild, referring letter from a country member, requesting action in relation to compulsory closing of shops on Saturday afternoon imposed by new Labour and Industry Act.

To Drug Houses of Australia Pty. Ltd., Vic., conveying thanks for donation of £120 for Materia Medica Lectureship at College of Pharmacy, 1954.

To Messrs. H. W. Woods Pty. Ltd., expressing thanks for gift of £1,000 for purchase of equipment for new building.

To Secretary, Students' Ball Committee, enclosing donation, £25.

To several members, conveying technical information on questions submitted by them.

To Mr. A. E. Conolly, Secretary, Federal Council of Pharmaceutical Societies, seeking information regarding second Kodak Travelling Scholarship. Secretary reported no reply yet to hand.

To Mr. A. T. S. Sissons, advising him of gift by Mr. C. P. A. Taylor to Library of Volumes I and II of "Science, Medicine and History."

To Medical Students' Society, University of Melbourne, authorising A.P.F. advertisement in next issue of "Speculum."

To Mr. W. O. Harris, conveying thanks of Council for lectures on Forensic Pharmacy, delivered by him to Fourth Year students.

To Lt.-Col. T. H. Gay, Senior Officer (Pharmaceutical) Medical Services, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, congratulating him on promotion to rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

From Secretary, Discussion Group, intimating that next meeting would be on August 11, when Mr. Pearson, of the St. John Ambulance Association, would address members on "First Aid for Pharmacists."

VICTORIA (Continued)

From the Medical Secretary, Victorian Branch, B.M.A., enclosing copy of letter from Director-General of Health to Federal Secretary, B.M.A., re marking of prescriptions for P.B.A. and P.M.S. It was requested that the contents of this letter be communicated to members, as some members had returned prescriptions not marked in accordance with new regulations, to doctors. Reply sent, intimating that publicity would be given in "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy."

To Mrs. V. M. Braddy, Cohuna, conveying sympathy on death of her husband.

To Mrs. Sobee, conveying sympathy on death of her husband, one of the Society's oldest members.

New Members Elected:—

Full Members (New Members).—Beth Elaine Baker, Mrs. Laurel F. Ferry, Mrs. Wilhelmina Ann Giles-Grigg, Kevin Francis P. Harty, Archibald Donald Munro, Ralph Edmund Stredwick. (Transfer from Apprentice Members): Marie Elizabeth Brady, Mrs. Agnes Mary Byrne, Lois Mary Meinhardt.

Apprentice Members.—Ivan James Carter, Catherine Rae Taylor.

Life Member.—An inquiry was received on behalf of Mr. F. T. Stone as to eligibility for Life Membership. The Secretary said Mr. Stone had been a member for 38 years, and was eligible. It was then resolved that Mr. Stone's name be transferred to the Honorary Life Members' List.

A.P.F. Report.—Mr. F. W. Johnson, Chairman of the A.P.F. Publicity Committee, reported that further consideration had been given during the month to publication of a list of B.P. drugs, showing doses. The Committee had met during the month at the residence of Dr. Stanton, who had given valuable advice. The Committee had adopted Dr. Stanton's suggestion that the list be presented according to classification of the B.P., 1953, instead of strict alphabetical classification, as previously proposed. A small committee, consisting of himself, Mr. A. L. Hull and Mr. F. H. Burton, of the College staff, had rearranged the list, and a draft was now being typed.

Other details concerning a proposed issue of the list were presented by Mr. Johnson, and after discussion were approved.

Mr. Hull, who prepared the original list, said he concurred in the suggestions, and was impressed with a proposal to refer in the list to A.P.F. formulæ, in which certain of the drugs listed featured.

It was proposed also that in the list there should be a column to indicate preparations which were classified as Dangerous Drugs or Specified Drugs.

The report was received, and members of the Council expressed appreciation of the work done by Mr. Johnson and his committee.

College Rebuilding.—The Acting President said that members had received in the last day or two a copy of a letter from the Director of Finance for the State of Victoria, stating that the Government had agreed to provide £300,000 for the erection of a new College of Pharmacy on the land owned by the Society in Royal Parade, Parkville. Under the proposed terms, the Council would be called upon to make a payment of £6,000 per annum over a period of 15 years. Another provision was that upon completion of the College building in Parkville the buildings and the site at 360 Swanston street, Melbourne, would revert to the State. An agreement between the Government and the Society would be drafted by the Crown Law Department and submitted. The Secretary read a copy of the letter of acceptance and appreciation sent to the Director of Finance.

Members of the Council expressed extreme pleasure on the successful outcome of the negotiations.

Pharmaceutical Services—Mental Hospitals.—The Secretary reported on an interview during the month with two Inspectors of the Public Service Board, when the question of rates for the pharmaceutical service being rendered by chemists for the Mental Hospitals at Ararat and Beechworth was discussed. Reasons for submission of the case for higher rates were outlined. The Inspectors intimated that a recommendation would be made to the Public Service Board, and the Council notified when a decision was made.

The Secretary said that he had advised the chemists concerned at Ararat and Beechworth of the progress made.

Report received.

The following recommendations recorded at a meeting of the Executive, held on July 27, were adopted:—

- That the Society agree to and be represented at a meeting of the Liaison Committee, to be called at an early date.
- That the Council participate in arrangements for entertainment of delegates to the meeting of Section "O," Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Melbourne in August, 1955.
- That a "Copy Fix" electric developer and photo copier and a new typewriter be purchased for the use of the Society.
- That the sum of £4,000 be transferred to reserve, and invested in Commonwealth Bonds.

Emergency Pharmaceutical Services in Country Areas.—The following letter was received from the Country Women's Association:—

"The following resolution has been sent in by the West Gippsland Group, and I would be grateful if you would give me your views on it, so that these can be sent to the Group concerned:

"That at least one Country Chemist be on duty for emergencies outside business hours, and that doctors and the exchange be notified which chemist is on duty."

"It was thought that as a general practice chemists do arrange among themselves some roster system during holidays, etc., but we would be glad to know whether there is any definite arrangement, and if not if there is likely to be one."

Mr. Hamon (Numurkah) said he thought the Council should have further information. His experience was that country areas throughout Victoria were well catered for in regard to emergency pharmaceutical services. In his opinion, there was no difficulty in obtaining emergency service in the country.

Mr. Taylor (Ballarat) concurred in the views of Mr. Hamon.

After discussion, it was resolved that a reply be sent, stating that in the opinion of the Council emergency services in country areas were available, but that if difficulty was experienced in any particular area the Council upon receipt of advice would investigate.

A.N.Z.A.A.S.—A communication was received from the Hon. General Secretary, A.N.Z.A.A.S., drawing attention to the formation of the Australian Academy of Science, with headquarters at Canberra. This move and the decision of the Australian National Research Council to consider winding up necessitated consideration by A.N.Z.A.A.S. of its future and its functions. The views of the Council were solicited.

The Secretary said he had discussed the matter with Mr. A. T. S. Sissons, who was of opinion that A.N.Z.A.A.S. performed a very useful function in organising conferences at which representatives of practically every branch of science were brought

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VICTORIA (Continued)

together. In his opinion, it was desirable that the Association should continue to function in that way. Members of the Council after discussion agreed with the views expressed by Mr. Sissons, and it was decided to reply accordingly.

Friendly Society Dispensaries.—Mr. K. G. Attiwill, who was present during part of the meeting, reported, at the request of the Acting President, on a published statement that legislation would be introduced in the Victorian Parliament during next session to give Friendly Society Dispensaries the right of open trade with the public. Mr. Attiwill said the State Branch Committee of the Guild at the previous meeting had decided unanimously to resist vigorously any such move, and plans were in hand for immediate action should the necessity arise.

Pricing Lectures: Mr. Hamon said it had been mentioned at the State Branch Committee of the Guild that lectures in pricing had not been given in any year at the College during 1953 and to the present in 1954, although the Council had agreed some time ago that such lectures should be given regularly to each of the four years.

The Acting President said the State Branch Committee had also made the suggestion that an examination essay or exercise of some sort dealing with pricing should be introduced into the selection of the Scott-McGibbony Scholarship, sponsored by the Victorian Branch of the Guild. It was agreed that the Acting President, together with the President, of the State Branch Committee of the Guild, should discuss these matters with the Dean.

Pharmaceutical Benefits—Channelling of Prescriptions.—Two members of the Council related their experiences concerning channelling of P.B.A. and P.M.S. prescriptions, as a result of which they suffered considerable financial loss. The members concerned intimated that prescriptions for penicillin prescribed for their own customers never reached them, and that on several occasions they had to abandon considerable stocks of penicillin because of the lack of demand. In one instance it was stated that a medical practitioner supplied containers which he himself labelled. A member said also that P.B.A. prescriptions, already bearing the Guild rubber stamp endorsement, had come to the pharmacy. This suggested that the stamp had been made available by a Guild member.

A long discussion took place, during which Council members expressed condemnation of practices which were growing up.

The Acting President said the Federal Council of the Guild was equally concerned. Five hundred of the three thousand chemists of Victoria received 70% of P.B.A. and P.M.S. business. The matter had been discussed on numerous occasions with the Minister, the Advisory Committee and the B.M.A., but no solution had been found.

Mr. K. G. Attiwill endorsed the remarks of the Acting Chairman. He said if any member had any suggestion to make as to how this position might be rectified he would be glad to hear from him.

Financial Statement.—The Honorary Treasurer, Mr. S. J. Baird, submitted the monthly financial statement and accounts totalling £6,619/14/11 were passed for payment.

Mr. Baird also tabled copies of the audited financial statement for the half-year ended June 30, 1954, audited statement of the Victorian College of Pharmacy War Memorial Building Trust Fund to March 31, 1954, and audited statement of the C. L. Butchers Memorial Library Trust Fund to June 30, 1954.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE P.D.L.

Directors' Meeting

The 364th meeting of the Directors of Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd. was held at 360 Swanston street, Melbourne, on August 18, at 9.30 a.m.

Present.—Mr. B. L. Warner (Vice-Chairman), in the chair; Messrs. I. H. Barnes, W. J. Cornell, N. C. Cossar, E. A. O. Moore, F. N. Pleasance, C. C. Wallis and the Secretary.

Illness of Mr. E. W. Braithwaite.—An apology for non-attendance was tendered on behalf of the Chairman, Mr. E. W. Braithwaite. The Secretary reported that Mr. Braithwaite was now convalescent after a recent operation, but that further treatment, extending over a period of some weeks, would be necessary. All present expressed their regret at Mr. Braithwaite's illness, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Braithwaite from this meeting, conveying the best wishes of his colleagues, and their desire to assist him in every possible way. They looked forward to the day when Mr. Braithwaite would be back with them.

During the period of Mr. Braithwaite's illness, and to relieve the strain on the Vice-Chairman, Mr. N. C. Cossar was nominated as the Director for reference by the Secretary on matters calling for urgent attention between meetings.

Insurance Circulars.—A circular communication ("New Insurance Information") from Mr. E. W. Braithwaite, as Chairman, was now ready for despatch to all chemists in business in Victoria.

Premises Risk (General Public Risk).—The question whether the reduced rates of premium would be applicable to all States had been referred to Melbourne Fire Office Ltd., and the reply of that company was awaited.

Correspondence: Formal correspondence was tabled, and the following were amongst the letters dealt with:

From Mr. Orion C. V. Leggo, of Forest Lodge, N.S.W., acknowledging what he described as "a very kindly gesture," referring to the Directors' message of sympathy in his recent illness.

From a country member, advising that he wished to take out fire insurance policies to cover a new store-room, which was practically completed, and the stock which he intended to keep in it. Enquiry referred to Melbourne Fire Office Ltd. for attention.

To the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd., enclosing copy of folder, "Adequate Insurance is Vital in All Business," as reprinted, and drawing attention to the reference to Personal Accident and Sickness insurance. It was suggested that the circumstances of some actual cases summarised briefly in the Journal might be another means of focusing attention on the benefits obtainable under this class of insurance.

To the Victorian Branch of the Guild, answering letter dealt with at the July meeting of the Directors, in reference to, (a) Insurance Scheme, (b) Proportionate Liability, (c) Revealing Dispensing Information, and (d) P.D.L. Reports.

To the Superintendent of Telephones, requesting transfer of telephone service in December next to the new premises at 24-26 St. Francis street, Melbourne. Also asking that if possible the new address be noted in the reprint of the telephone book, to be issued in November.

To Melbourne Fire Office Ltd., suggesting in regard to the Chemists' Indemnity proposal forms that the present stock be scrapped and new forms printed, embodying the following alterations:—(1) That the present cover of "£1,000 (minimum)" be indicated. (2) That the existing reference to Bicycle (Third Party) Indemnity cover be extended to indicate that this cover would not be required by those members who took out a General Public Risk policy. (3) That on the back of the proposal form the full scale for higher covers be quoted, and an outline given of the General Public

VICTORIA (Continued)

Risk cover and the premium rates calculated at the new reduced scale now operating.

From the N.S.W. Branch Secretary, advising that the detailed report he had prepared on Infra-Red Ray Lamps had been given to the Chairman of the N.S.W. Local Board for his approval, but unfortunately the Chairman had been absent from his office through illness. The Secretary stated that the report referred to had not come to hand yet.

New Members Elected.—Mr. K. O. Benson, Brunswick; Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Giles-Grigg, East Ivanhoe; Messrs. M. Goodman, St. Albans; I. L. Herbert, Altona; B. J. Hawkins, North Melbourne; A. E. Mallalieu, Bendigo; and N. Maller, Ringwood.

Legal Advice.—On one question submitted the solicitor advised that under the new Landlord and Tenant Act passed at the end of last year, if a lease of three years or longer was taken of business premises, then the premises were excluded from the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act. If the owner desired to eject the tenant at the end of the lease, there would be no difficulty about it at all, as the tenant had no rights once the premises were excluded from the provisions of the Act. On the other hand, one of the advantages of taking a lease was that the tenant had a certainty for at least the length of time of the lease. There was no certainty that amending legislation might not throw all business premises outside the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act, in which case it would be of advantage to have a lease. It was suggested the best form of lease would be one of two years, with an option to renew.

A member sought advice on the following query:—A taxi-truck operator is doing delivery work for a pharmacist. He calls at, say, 4 p.m., and delivers parcels for the pharmacist to the exclusion of other clients till, say, 5.30 p.m. While so doing he displays a sign showing the pharmacist's name and address and service. Is the pharmacist liable for any injury or loss due to the taxi-truck being involved in accident or the wrong delivery of goods? The solicitor advised that before entering into any contract the member should make certain that the taxi-truck operator was not his servant or agent, but was an independent contractor. If the taxi-truck operator was an independent contractor, the member would not be liable for injury or loss if the taxi-truck were involved in an accident. On the other question, the member could be liable for damage caused by the wrong delivery of goods, but he in turn might be able to look to the operator for any negligence on the part of the operator.

Several queries in regard to leases were also dealt with.

N.H.S. Committees of Inquiry.—The Secretary placed before the Directors the correspondence during the month with the Branch Secretary in Western Australia concerning a reprimand and a warning conveyed to a member in W.A. following his appearance before the N.H.S. Committee of Enquiry. The member subsequently had an independent analysis made of his half of the sample, and the analyst's report was: "This is a correctly dispensed sample of of the P.M.S. list." The member forwarded a copy of this report to the Department, but he was informed that "the department is bound to accept as being correct the findings of the officially appointed analyst, and therefore, notwithstanding any subsequent divergence of opinion as between analysts, further enquiry by the committee cannot be considered."

On behalf of the Directors, it was agreed that every effort should be made through P.D.L. to remove what appeared to be an injustice to the member. The Branch Secretary was asked to place the facts before the Branch solicitor, and he was authorised to obtain coun-

sel's opinion, if necessary, and report back to Head Office.

From inquiries made by Head Office it was learned that the division of any test purchase into two portions was the practice being followed by the department, and that, although representations had been made on a number of occasions that this procedure should be varied, so that any sample taken would be divided into three parts, the view advanced on behalf of pharmacy by another organisation had not as yet been accepted by the department.

Later advice from Western Australia, following further representations, was that the matter would be reopened by the local Committee.

It was resolved that further consideration be deferred pending notification of the outcome in the W.A. case.

Financial.—The Hon. Treasurer presented the monthly financial statement, and accounts totalling £238/12/5 were passed for payment.

General.—Mr. Pleasance said all of the Directors were glad to see Mr. B. L. Warner back amongst them, and able to occupy the chair at this meeting. Mr. Warner said he had been feeling better lately, and was happy to be present. He was hopeful that the progress of the last few weeks would continue.

The meeting closed at 1.5 p.m.

THE GUILD

S.B.C. Meeting

The State Branch Committee of the Victorian Branch of the Guild met at 360 Swanston street, Melbourne, on August 3, at 8 p.m.

President.—Mr. F. N. Lee (President), in the chair; Messrs. N. F. Keith, L. Hamon, W. J. Langtry, J. J. Cocking, F. J. Gregory, F. L. Flint, S. M. Adams, J. W. D. Crowley, T. K. G. Sarah, L. F. Gough, E. Scott, A. E. Moore, L. G. Suggett, W. R. Iliffe, F. H. Bedford, A. O. C. Blake, I. R. Keelan, J. I. Richards, K. L. C. Davies, A. K. Lloyd, W. L. Hilyard, A. Beavis, K. G. Attiwill, W. J. Wright (Assistant Secretary), and the Secretary.

Decontrol of Drugs.—Mr. Keith reported that efforts to obtain decontrol on drugs, chemicals, and dispensing fees had at last been successful.

Resignation.—E. B. Davies.—A motion by Mr. Iliffe, seconded by Mr. Richards, that a letter be sent to Mr. Davies in commendation of his efforts in satisfactorily carrying out his duties whilst in office, particularly with regard to the Combined Price List, was passed with acclamation. A welcome was extended to Mr. W. J. Wright, who has taken up the position of Assistant Secretary.

Pricing Report.—In presenting the Pricing Report, Mr. Keith specially mentioned the work done by Mr. Burton, the Pharmacy Board officer who performed the work in coding the poisons on the Joint Price List. It was suggested that in addition to the S.B.C. sending a letter of thanks to Mr. Burton a letter should also be sent to the Pharmacy Board, with thanks for making Mr. Burton's time available.

The matter of the price of bottles was also raised by Mr. Keith, and it was resolved that application be made to the major warehouses for bottles prices for submission to Canberra.

Price Cutting of Nestle's Lines.—A delegate raised the matter of the negative attitude of Nestles to price cutting by retailers of their products, and moved that the Secretary write to Nestles seeking their price policy with regard to "Milo" and "Ideal Milk," and that the reply be published when received. The motion was carried.

Returning Officer's Report.—Mr. Moore, Returning Officer, reported that the nominations received for the

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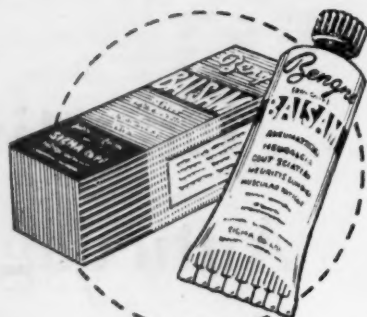
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VICTORIA (Continued)

officers of the State Branch did not exceed the positions becoming vacant; therefore, those nominated were automatically elected. The only change in the existing officers was that of Treasurer. Mr. Langtry had declined to renominate, and Mr. Crowley's nomination for the vacancy was the only one received.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Langtry for services rendered was moved by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Keith, and carried with acclamation.

Mr. Langtry responded, expressing regret for the necessity of taking the step he had.

Mr. Scott welcomed Mr. Crowley to the executive, and Mr. Crowley responded.

Mr. Lee thanked members for the confidence they had shown in him by again electing him President.

New Members Elected.—Messrs. G. S. McNeill, Euroa; B. J. Hawkins, North Melbourne; A. E. Jaggs, Moorabbin; A. E. Mallalieu, Bendigo; and W. N. Giles-Grigg, East Ivanhoe.

Letters of Sympathy.—Resolved that letters be sent to Mr. E. W. Braithwaite and Mrs. Westwood, who are ill, expressing sympathy and hope for speedy recovery. The meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.

QUEENSLAND

PERSONAL and GENERAL

State News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in Queensland, Miss D. Brighouse, phone B 8407.

A northern pharmacist spending some weeks in Brisbane during the month was **Mr. A. Dal Santo**, of Ayr.

Mrs. F. S. Moore has sold her pharmacy at 104 Hamilton road, Hamilton, to Mr. Eric Woods, of Melbourne.

Mr. N. J. Richardson, formerly in business in N.S.W., has purchased the pharmacy at Tewantin conducted for some years by Mr. C. R. S. Hill.

Mr. P. J. Sullivan, of Zillmere, has established his third pharmacy at Archerfield road, Inala, and has appointed Mr. J. J. O'Connor as manager.

Mr. T. E. Hanley, formerly of Dalby, is now managing the United Pharmacy at Parramatta road, Petersham, N.S.W.

A New Zealand pharmacist holidaying in Queensland during the month was **Miss Kath Phillips**, of Manurewa, Auckland.

Mr. F. N. Lee, President of the Victorian Branch of the Guild, who spent several weeks in Brisbane during August, renewed friendships with officers and members of the Queensland State Branch Committee of the Guild.

GUILD ANNUAL MEETING.

A representative gathering of members assembled for the 26th Annual Meeting of the Queensland Branch of the Guild, which was held in the Chamber of Commerce Rooms on August 19.

The meeting was chaired by the President, Mr. W. A. Lenehan, who extended a welcome to the guest speakers, the Federal President, Mr. Eric Scott, and the

Federal Director of the Pharmaceutical Public Relations Secretariat, Mr. K. G. Attiwill.

Mr. Lenehan said that on this occasion Queensland was further honoured by the presence of the President of the Victorian Branch of the Guild, Mr. F. N. Lee, who happened to be holidaying in Brisbane. Mr. Lenehan assured Mr. Lee that members of the Queensland Branch were happy to have the Victorian President with them on this occasion.

In extending a welcome to those present, Mr. Lenehan said he would like to specially mention Mr. A. M. McFarlane, a former member of the Victorian Branch and now a Queenslander, also his assistant, Mr. Alan Hibberd, from Victoria, and Mr. Ken Woods, a former Chairman of the Far Northern Guild Zone when in business at Innisfail. Mr. Lenehan said he trusted that all would find the evening most interesting and enjoyable.

The addresses by Mr. Scott and Mr. Attiwill were most interesting and informative, and were listened to with rapt attention.

At the conclusion of the addresses, a vote of thanks proposed by the Vice-President, Mr. C. A. Nichol, was carried by acclamation.

An enjoyable evening concluded with the serving of supper in the Guild Rooms.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, Mr. Scott and Mr. Attiwill, accompanied by Mr. Lenehan and Mr. Nichol, had visited Maryborough, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns, where they had the pleasure of meeting many members and of providing them with up-to-date information on all matters of pharmaceutical importance.

A fuller report on these activities will be published in the September issue of the Journal.

QUEENSLAND CHEMISTS' GOLF CLUB.

Mr. Cliff. Noble, Hon. Secretary of the Club, reports details of the July competition, held at Virginia Golf Links. The course was in excellent condition and 54 players faced the starter for various events. Some excellent golf was played by members, and the prize-winners were:

Best individual score.—A Grade: Mr. Bert Asprey, 36 points. B Grade: Mr. Len Fogg, 27 points.

Four Ball Best Ball.—Mr. Bryan O'Connell and Mr. Marshall Lyne, 39 points.

Ian Brusasco and Marshall Lyne tied, and in the draw from the hat Marshall Lyne was successful. Being a good sport, Mr. Brusasco was delighted with the result.

The Associates had a very interesting game but refrained from entering competition, and their trophy will be carried forward.

After the game members of the club held a round table conference which was very successful—several of the players deciding they would buy the links themselves!

The next golf outing was arranged to be held at the Oxley Golf Links on August 15.

Further dates fixed for competitions are:

September 26: Nudgee Golf Links.

November 21: Redland Bay Golf Links.

A cordial invitation is extended to all chemists to link up with the club and participate in these games.

OBITUARY.

The death took place in Sydney on July 22 of **Mr. T. F. Hall**, of Ipswich, at the age of 79 years.

Prior to his retirement from business in 1944, Mr. Hall had conducted a pharmacy in Ipswich for some years. He had been a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland for over 50 years, during which period he had served as a Councillor of the Society, had been President of the Society and had also represented the Society on the Committee of the Queensland College of Pharmacy. In 1936, the late Mr. Hall was honoured

QUEENSLAND (Continued)

with Life Membership of the Pharmaceutical Society.

More recently, Mr. Hall, living in retirement in Ipswich, had enjoyed good health until a few days before his death.

Mr. E. G. Holmes, who conducted a pharmacy at Red Hill for many years, died in Brisbane on August 17 at the age of 92 years. When in business at Red Hill, Mr. Holmes served the Council of the Society as Returning Officer and Hon. Auditor for many years.

To the families of these deceased pharmacists, sincere sympathy is extended in their bereavement.

THE GUILD

S.B.C. Meeting

The State Branch Committee of the Queensland Branch of the Guild met at Drysdale's Chambers, Brisbane, on August 5, at 8 p.m.

Attendance.—Messrs. W. A. Lenehan (Chairman), C. A. Nichol, W. E. Martin, F. H. Phillips, A. B. Chater, A. Bell, A. N. C. Munro, C. W. Noble, J. J. Delahunty and the State Secretary.

Pricing Lecture to Final Year Students.—Mr. Chater reported that he had given his pricing lecture on August 3. Unfortunately, the final year students had special tests during that week and only about 18 came to the lecture. Mr. Chater said if he had been informed of the position he would have been happy to postpone the lecture until a more suitable time. However, Mr. Chater said he would be willing to give another lecture at a later date for those students who were unable to attend. Mr. Chater said those who attended were very interested in what he had to say, and he found that they had a good knowledge of pricing.

Mr. Lenehan advised that since last meeting the Students Society had written asking if it would be possible for a short history of the Guild to be given to the students on the same night as the pricing lecture. By arrangement with Mr. Chater, Mr. Lenehan said he had attended and provided the students with a short address touching on the structure of the Guild and some of its workings to date.

Interview With Repatriation Commissioner.—Mr. Lenehan reported that owing to the number of queries which were being received and the Repatriation Department advising that the chemists were making a great many mistakes in the operation of the new scheme, he thought it advisable to interview the Repatriation Commissioner. Mr. Lenehan said the Guild in this State, at least, was given to understand that the new scheme would operate as from July 1. However, the local Repatriation Commission state that the new scheme came into operation when the chemists received its advice. It could mean that a few chemists might be out of pocket through this, and if members found that they were out of pocket to any extent the Guild would pursue the matter on their behalf.

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that this State Branch Committee considers than an officer of the Repatriation Department is not competent to determine what is or what is not a month's supply. All altered or defective prescriptions must be returned to the chemist to give him an opportunity to have the prescription attended to so that payment can be made. Resolved that this information be sent on to Federal Office.

New Member Elected.—Miss U. Minnis, Ipswich.

Transfer From N.S.W.—Mr. W. J. Haddon, Redcliffe.

Reinstatement.—Mr. G. Schreiber, Tara.

Correspondence.—To Mr. Eric Scott, Federal President, thanking him for the introduction of his monthly letter to members of the State Branch Committee, which is greatly appreciated.

To Mr. H. G. Tudor, thanking him for his membership of the Guild over a long period of years and extending good wishes for the future.

To Mr. Foley, of Reckitt & Colman (Aust.) Ltd., expressing thanks to him personally and also to his company for making it possible to have the excellent films presented to pharmacists in this State, to which complimentary reference had been made by many members.

From Federal Secretary: (1) Reminding that remits for the Federal Council Meeting must be in hand by August 25; (2) stating that one State is still considering the suggestion to produce a Ready Reckoner for pricing grains and minim quantities for P.M.S. and Guild Pricing; (3) attaching copy of letter written to Frederick Stearns & Company in connection with the canteen established at the Officers' Quarters of the Wacol Camp.

From Federal Merchandising Manager re (1) "Codis," and (2) Reckitt & Colman Products Parcel Buy.

From Director-General of Health and Medical Services: (1) Re "Allerban," advising that as a result of analysis it was found that the sample is included in Schedule 11 of the Poisons Regulations of 1947 (Atropine basis), and on this basis it benefits by the proviso clause of Reg. 22. In regard to this proviso the Director-General would be prepared to accept a declaration "contains a Schedule 11 poison" in red, as a slip label on the main face of the label. The Secretary reported that she had passed this information on to the Secretary of the Victorian Branch and had also provided the names of local wholesalers to be contacted concerning the marketing of "Allerban" in Queensland.

(2) Re sale of D.H.A. Penicillin Lozenges by a hairdresser in a country town, stating that the hairdresser complained of holds a general Poisons Licence, and as Penicillin Lozenges have been exempted from the prescription requirements of the Poisons Regulations relating to restricted drugs, they qualify only as a Schedule 1 poison, and a holder of a general Poisons Licence is allowed to sell Schedule 1 poisons which are not dangerous or restricted drugs. However, the whole question will receive further consideration. Noted by the Committee.

From Chamber of Commerce, seeking the name of the Guild representative for the coming year. Resolved that Mr. Delahunty be reappointed.

Nominations for 1954-55.—The Secretary reported that six nominations had been received to fill the six vacancies on the Committee; therefore there was no need for an election this year.

Visit to North Queensland.—Mr. Lenehan reported that, in company with Mr. Scott, Mr. Attiwill and Mr. Nichol, he would set off on August 9 to visit Maryborough, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. It was hoped that over 100 members would be contacted in the course of these visits. The Secretary had everything well in hand, and he felt sure that the visits would do an amount of good.

Death of Mr. T. F. Hall.—Mr. Munro referred to the death of Mr. T. F. Hall, who was a member of the Guild for many years when in business in Ipswich. The Secretary was requested to send a letter of condolence to Mr. Hall's daughter.

Federal Delegate's Report.—The Federal Delegate, Mr. Martin, submitted the letter sent by the Federal President to Dr. A. J. Metcalfe, Director-General of Health, with regard to P.B.A. and P.M.S. test prescriptions.

Taxation Standing Committee.—Mr. Noble reported that the Taxation Standing Committee advised that the chief features of the report of the Commissioner of Taxation dealt with Succession and Probate Duties Acts, Gift Duty Acts, Stamp Acts.

The meeting closed at 11.15 p.m.

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- It's backed by a firm with a 200-year-old reputation.
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PERSONAL and GENERAL

State News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in S.A., Mr. E. F. Lipsham.

Mr. Ramsey acted as locum for Mr. G. Higgins, of Prospect, during most of August.

Mr. D. Saies assisted Mr. Hennessey, of Knoxville, during July and most of August.

Mr. R. A. Taylor has opened a pharmacy in Clovelly Gardens.

Mr. B. Kildea has purchased the pharmacy originally opened in Prospect by Mr. G. Higgins.

Mr. R. Brice spent a fortnight in August with Mr. H. G. Collyer, of Brighton.

Mr. J. Dixon opened his new pharmacy in Glenside in the middle of July.

Mr. T. Hemmings has joined the relieving staff of the Friendly Society Medical Association.

Mr. H. C. Martin, Registrar of the Pharmacy Board, made a short visit to Western Australia in the early part of August.

Mr. H. Philp was in charge of Mr. P. K. Porter's pharmacy at Goodwood during the proprietor's absence early in the month.

Mr. A. C. Holloway, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, has purchased the pharmacy conducted by Mr. Douglas Jones in Diagonal road, Glenelg.

Mr. R. Cotton, the Inspector of the Pharmacy Board, and Mrs. Cotton celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on July 31.

Mr. J. Otto relieved Mr. J. Physick, of Hove, for the first week of August, and then went to Millicent under engagement to Mr. J. Caught for the rest of the month.

F.O. L. West spent his annual leave from Laverton in Adelaide at the end of July and the beginning of August.

Mr. M. Roberts, of Victoria, has joined the S.A. Register for the purpose of going to Ceduna to allow Miss Page to have a holiday vacation.

Mr. R. Upton, Mrs. Upton and family spent their holiday vacation in Adelaide in the middle of August and then returned to Broken Hill.

Mr. L. Davis and Mr. K. Dohlfing will resign in December next their positions at the Pharmacy Department of the Royal Adelaide Hospital in order to embark for England.

Mr. E. F. Lipsham, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy, went to Melbourne in August to confer with other lecturers and parties interested in the teaching of commercial pharmacy.

Mr. Brian O'Connor, during July and August, acted as relieving manager for Mr. R. Butler, of Mr. A. Lean's branch pharmacy in Harcourt Gardens, for Mr. D. Barldolph, manager of Humble's Pharmacy, St. Peters, and for Mr. D. K. Cock, of Glenelg.

The partnership between Messrs. J. C. and C. C. Freeman has been terminated, with Mr. J. C. Freeman registered as controlling the pharmacies in Hindley street, James place and Glenelg, and Mr. C. C. Freeman controlling those in Bank street and the railway station on North terrace.

During the early part of August the new Senior Lec-

turer in Pharmacology of the University of Sydney (E. A. Johnson, M.D.) visited the pharmacy laboratory on his way from Sheffield, England. He spoke of continuing in Australia his researches into the value of various drugs in the treatment of diseases of the heart which he had started in the laboratories of Burroughs Wellcome & Co. Ltd.

Mr. J. K. Everett writes from London of his successful tour of the Continent, including visits to France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Holland. He has also worked for one of the smaller chain store groups in England, and is not impressed with the system of dispensing being done by unqualified labour. "Pharmacy here is quite different from Australia, and the multiple businesses have taken away a lot of our professional status. I think it would be a shame if Australian pharmacy ever became like it is here." He also writes of a projected 3000-mile tour of England, Scotland and Wales.

Death from Arsenical Poisoning.—Although a 57-year-old married woman died from arsenical poisoning, there was no reasonable possibility that the poison was deliberately or intentionally administered. The City Coroner, Mr. T. E. Cleland, returned this finding after an inquest into the death of Agnes Louisa Lawson, of Mead street, Largs Bay, in Royal Adelaide Hospital on September 18. Exhaustive investigations by detectives have failed to reveal any way in which Mrs. Lawson could have taken arsenic. Mr. Cleland said, "I am very concerned about this."

ENGAGEMENTS.

Carmody—Madigan.—The engagement is announced of Colleen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Carmody, to Hadyn, son of Mrs. G. Madigan and the late Mr. Madigan, of Fullarton.

Clayer—Weller.—The engagement is announced of Pamela, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. R. Clayer, of Black Forest, to Reginald, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Weller, of Black Forest. Miss Clayer is a second year science student at Adelaide University, and her fiancé is a qualified pharmacist.

WEDDINGS.

Dent—Masters.—The marriage of Athalia Ada Lorraine, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. S. Dent, of Mount Barker, to James Albert, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Masters, of Wharminda, was solemnised at St. Columba's Church of England, Hawthorn, on August 7.

Orr—Hayter.—The marriage of Fay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Orr, of North Unley, to Bruce, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hayter, of Fullarton, was solemnised at a recent ceremony in the Malvern Methodist Church.

BIRTHS.

Lyons.—On August 3, at Calvary, to Shirley and Colin—a son.

Moriarty.—On August 5, at Calvary, to Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Moriarty, of Beaumont—a son.

Potts.—On July 19, at Bordertown, to Donna, wife of Frank Potts, of Keith—a son.

Warnecke (nee Randal).—On July 28, at Memorial Hospital, to Pauline and Drennan—a daughter.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death, on July 27, of Mr. Arthur Kent Newbery, of 1 Carruth road, Torrens Park.

We regret to announce the death at Port Pirie Hospital on August 9 of Henry Nisbett Skewes, aged 68. Mr. Skewes leaves a wife and two sons.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Continued)

PETHIDINE.

State Health Department Report.

A few cases of addiction to the drug pethidine have been found in South Australia, where sales of the drug quadrupled within 18 months of the start of the free medicine scheme in 1950.

This is stated in the latest bulletin issued by the Department of Public Health.

The therapeutic use of pethidine can cause dangerous addiction, which is rapidly acquired, and in severe cases is as difficult to break as morphine addiction, the report says.

Pethidine is the most important of the synthetic narcotic drugs subject to international control.

"Australia is one of the heaviest users per capita of the drug in the world—an unenviable position," the report says.

APPEAL AGAINST WAGES DETERMINATION.

When an appeal against a determination of the Retail Pharmaceutical Chemists' Board was called during the month, an application for an adjournment of the hearing was sought on behalf of the appellants—the employers' representatives on the Board—and the Court adjourned further proceedings until September 6.

The appellants sought to substitute for wage rates decided by the Board in a determination, dated May 27 last, a pay range, for adult male employees, rising from £11/17/- to £13/19/- a week; and for adult females, a variation between £8/19/- and £11/1/-.

The corresponding wage ranges granted by the Board were from £11/3/- to £18/3/- for males, and from £8/12/- to £14/10/- for females.

Mr. R. H. Dunn appeared for the appellants, and Mr. S. C. Bevan, with Mr. R. E. Bannister, for the Federated Miscellaneous Workers' Union, and the employees' representatives on the Board.

[It is understood that the appeal applies to wages of apprentices.—Ed.]

NEW ANTIBIOTIC DISCOVERED.

A new antibiotic, which it is hoped may be used in the treatment of certain diseases, has been discovered by the Reader in Bacteriology at Adelaide University (Miss Nancy Atkinson).

She announced her discovery at a meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce during the month.

The new antibiotic—the first she had known to be susceptible to light—had been isolated in small amounts after a number of experiments.

It was derived from a mushroom that turned to bright yellow where anything touched it.

The mushroom could be eaten without ill-effects.

Miss Atkinson said she developed and isolated the new antibiotic through the use of filter paper.

Liquid containing the antibiotic was poured, with a solvent, across the paper, and the various constituents separated, and were recovered when the paper dried.

At first it was found the antibiotic disappeared from the paper, but long research proved that the action of light destroyed the antibiotic.

Now it was prepared under an amber light, which caused no change in its concentration, even after five hours' exposure.

Miss Atkinson said that the antibiotic prevented the growth of a large number of disease-producing bacteria, but it was not yet known what effect it had on virus.

She said she intended to write a full report on her discovery for publication in scientific journals.

BREACH OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' ACT.

Fine of £15 for Posing as Doctor.

Mathew Hewitt Cosgriff, 20, laboratory technician, of North Esplanade, Glenelg, was fined £15 with 7/6 costs for having posed as a doctor at Adelaide on July 26.

He fainted when the fine was imposed, but soon recovered.

Cosgriff admitted having, on July 20 at Adelaide, not being registered under the Medical Practitioners' Act, either directly or indirectly held himself out to be, or pretended to be a doctor.

Inspector O'Sullivan said that on July 18 Cosgriff met Dr. Last at a private gathering, and said he was a doctor, having worked in a country district in Victoria.

Dr. Last, believing the defendant to be a doctor, arranged for Cosgriff to visit the Children's Hospital on July 20, said the prosecutor. Cosgriff was taken over the hospital, and later witnessed an operation.

Questioned by Detective Marker, the defendant said he was registered as a doctor in N.S.W., but refused to give his correct name "for private reasons." Later he admitted that he was not a doctor, but claimed to have been a fifth-year medical student at the Melbourne University, and had been "kicked out."

Inspector O'Sullivan said that a check in Melbourne revealed that Cosgriff had never been enrolled as a student at the Melbourne University, but had worked there as an assistant in the physiology department for 18 months.

PHARMACY BOARD

Monthly Meeting

The Pharmacy Board of South Australia met at 25 King William street, Adelaide, on August 18, at 7.45 p.m.

Present.—Mr. K. S. Porter (President), in the chair; Messrs. A. E. Bowey, D. C. Hill, B. F. Mildren, L. A. Craig, G. L. Burns and the Registrar.

Correspondence.—To the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, dealing with wording under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Regulations, particularly referring to Restricted Drugs. Mr. Porter reported on the wording included in "Notes for Approved Chemists."

Copy of the amendment to the Pharmacy Act 1897-1952, from New South Wales, dealing particularly with registration of pharmaceutical chemists not covered by reciprocal agreements, was received.

An enquiry has been received from the Department of Public Health, Sydney, asking for information as to the terms of the South Australian Pharmacy Act dealing with ownership of pharmacies by unregistered persons.

Depots.—The following depots were approved:—Mr. C. A. Newson, at Mylor; Mr. R. L. Daniel, at Kangarilla and Clarendon; Mr. D. R. Webb, at Warooka, Stansbury and Edithburgh; Mr. J. G. Cox, at Lyndoch and Williamstown; and Mr. F. Best, at Balhannah.

Relievers.—Mr. B. T. O'Connor to Messrs. R. J. Butler, D. H. Bardolph and D. K. R. Cock; Mr. D. Saies to Messrs. C. H. Hennessy and D. Mosel; Mr. J. L. Otto to Messrs. J. Physick and J. G. Caught; Mr. A. M. Ramsey to Messrs. G. L. Higgins and J. W. Stain; Mr. R. H. Brice to Mr. H. G. Collyer; Mr. H. J. Philp to Mr. P. K. Porter; Mr. A. Lagana to Mr. J. W. Bird; Mr. D. S. Warren to Mr. E. E. Hogben.

Advertising.—Negotiations have been proceeding with two pharmacists concerning the wording used by them in their advertisements in the "pink pages" of the

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*DISPLAY IT PROMINENTLY.... and be sure you stock
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA (Continued)

telephone directory. In each case the pharmacist concerned has agreed to amend such advertisement.

Three pharmacists have been requested to amend wording used by them in the matter of advertising of dispensing services, and in each case an undertaking has been received from the pharmacist concerned that the alterations as requested will be made.

Finance.—Statement for the month of July was submitted and adopted, and accounts totalling £68/13/- were passed for payment.

Practising Certificates.—Certificates of identity have been received from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria (in favour of Mr. M. C. Roberts) and from the Pharmacy Board of Queensland (in favour of Mr. J. G. Kellas).

An application from Mr. C. M. Mortal for registration under reciprocal agreement has been approved.

Registration of Premises.—Applications have been received and noted from Messrs. C. C. Freeman, J. C. Freeman, R. A. Taylor, J. B. Kildea, A. C. Holloway and T. I. Lee, and J. M. Dixon.

Register.—Death of Mr. A. K. Newbery on 27/7/54, and Mr. H. N. Skewes on 9/8/54. Registrar was authorised to strike the names of Messrs. Newbery and Skewes from the Registrar.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

Council Meeting

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia met at 25 King William street, Adelaide, on August 3, at 7.45 p.m.

Present.—Mr. A. C. Holloway (President), in the chair; Messrs. E. F. Lipsham, Walter C. Cotterell, D. F. J. Penhall, A. A. Russell, J. D. Duncan and the Secretary.

Correspondence.—Recent amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Act have been considered, and the Department of Public Health have been asked to advise chemists of the amendments when sending out quarterly returns.

An enquiry has been received from A.N.Z.A.A.S. as to its future activities, and the Council has been asked to express an opinion. Pending information as to the constitution of the Australian Academy of Science, it was decided that further consideration of this matter should be deferred.

Following correspondence from the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, dealing with a conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Pakistan, to be held in November, it was decided to make films available for showing at the Pakistan Conference.

Letter of sympathy has been sent to Mrs. A. K. Newbery on the death of her husband.

Advisory Committee.—Correspondence has been received from a member in connection with the opening of a new pharmacy in close proximity to his business. An approach has been made to the pharmacist who proposes to open the new business, and he has now undertaken not to make any definite commitments without first conferring with the Advisory Committee.

Correspondence has also been received in connection with the opening of a new pharmacy in one of the seaside areas. It was decided to forward a letter to the builder of the shops in which the pharmacy is to be established, pointing out the proximity of existing pharmacies, and expressing the opinion of the Ad-

visory Committee that some doubt exists as to whether there would be sufficient business to warrant the opening of a new pharmacy.

Circular prepared by the President of the Society and the President of the Guild, dealing with the matter of Squatting, was approved for forwarding to all members.

Students.—Consideration was given to the necessity of revising the conditions of awards and prizes, and the Sub-committee submitted a further report, to which the Council gave consideration. The report was adopted in principle, and certain suggestions made to the Sub-committee to assist in the finalising of the various conditions.

Finance.—Statement for the month of July was submitted and adopted, and accounts totalling £513/3/9 were passed for payment.

Audited statement for 12 months ended June 30, 1954, was submitted and adopted.

Membership.—An application for membership from Mr. J. Z. Palape was accepted, subject to his registration by the Pharmacy Board.

Golf Day.—Sub-committee reported, and it was resolved, that the golf day should be held at Victor Harbour on September 26. Authority was granted to the sub-committee to proceed with the necessary arrangements.

Annual Meeting.—The Annual Meeting will be held at the Curzon Theatre on August 25.

Newspaper Advertisements.—It was reported that a pharmacist has been advertising "Money refunded if my mixture will not stop your cough. Personal application." It was further reported that another pharmacist was advertising "Money eagerly refunded if our prescription fails to stop your cough." It was decided that correspondence should be forwarded to the two pharmacists concerned, asking that they cease this type of advertising.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PERSONAL and GENERAL

State News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in W.A., Mr. F. W. Avenell (phone BA 4082).

Mr. L. J. Keys has opened a branch pharmacy at Rivervale with Mr. B. J. Robson as manager.

Mr. L. G. Nicholls has purchased the pharmacy of Mr. J. Jordan at Osborne Park.

We extend our best wishes for the success of these enterprises.

His many friends will be sorry to learn that Mr. F. T. Lorman is in hospital again. At the time of writing he was progressing satisfactorily.

Congratulations to Ian Dick, of Applecross, who captained the Australian Hockey Team against New Zealand. Although the Australian Team was unsuccessful, it put up a really fine performance.

After a lengthy illness, Mr. Adlard, husband of Mrs. E. Adlard (nee Miss Jacobson), chemist, of Claremont, died on August 16. Mrs. Adlard has been a very enthusiastic member of the Women Pharmacists' Association, and we offer her our sincere sympathy.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Continued)

Messrs. C. O. Carter and R. E. Boylen have returned from the eastern States after an absence of several months, and are now managing Mr. I. R. Sinclair's pharmacy at Dalkeith and W. J. Bryant's pharmacy at Geraldton respectively.

Wedding.—Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. A. H. Hutcheson, of Carnarvon, who was married on August 7.

Pharmaceutical Society.—At the monthly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society on July 28 Dr. A. Dawkins gave a very much appreciated talk on Joint and Muscle Injuries (Sprains and Strains). Although the Pharmacy Ball had been held on the previous night, there was quite a large attendance at the meeting.

Chemists on Holiday.—Mr. J. L. Hart, of Mt. Barker (reliever, Mr. P. J. Boobyer); Mr. W. T. Harrison, of Leederville (reliever, Mr. M. C. Hawke); Mr. H. N. Armstrong, of Perth (reliever, Mr. M. C. Hawke); Mr. M. H. Gradner, of Dalwallinu (reliever, Mr. R. G. Medlow); Mr. D. G. White, of Plaza Arcade (reliever, Mr. R. G. Medlow); Mr. W. C. S. Efford, of Beverley (reliever, Mr. L. E. Knight); Mr. G. C. Porter, of Kojonup (reliever, Mr. L. E. Knight); Mr. F. Rowe, of Perth (reliever, Mr. L. E. Knight); Mr. L. S. C. Scull, of Carlisle (reliever, Mr. N. G. Dallimore); and Mr. R. Donaldson, of Nedlands (reliever, Mr. M. Pierre-Humbert).

OBITUARY.

We sincerely regret having to report the death of Mr. G. R. Nicholas, of Applecross. Born at Perth in 1908, he was educated at Wesley College and apprenticed to the late Mr. Alex Trouchet. After qualifying in 1933 he opened a pharmacy at Mt. Magnet and conducted this successfully until he moved to Beaconsfield. In 1951 he opened a new pharmacy at Canning Bridge, where he built up a very thriving business.

Ralph was an unassuming, likeable person, who had the gift of making and keeping friends. His interests were centred around his home and family.

He was a brother of Mr. J. M. Nicholas, chemist, of Swanbourne, and uncle of Trevor Nicholas, who qualified last year. He leaves a widow and four children, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

THE PHARMACY BALL.

The 18th Pharmacy Ball was held at the Embassy Ballroom, Perth, on July 27, and eclipsed all others.

The President, Mr. R. I. Cohen, and Mrs. Cohen were host and hostess of the evening, and welcomed the 732 guests.

Mr. Dan White presented Mrs. Cohen with a beautiful bouquet of mauve iris, pink carnations and purple violets which harmonised well with her mauve and silver tulle ensemble.

The coloured lights in floor, ceiling and around the band alcove, which appeared when the other lights were dimmed, made the dresses look even more beautiful by their rainbow colourings.

Exhibition dances by the two Wrightsons, world champion dancers, of Fremantle, were something to be remembered, and their rendering of the "Dance Eliza" from the film "American in Paris" was superb.

The whole evening went with a swing. Six male pharmacy students, appropriately dressed, gave a hilarious imitation of the Can Can dance which everyone enjoyed.

The supper served in the loges, on small tables around the floor and in the balconies was exceptionally good.

The Committee responsible for the evening included Messrs. G. H. Dallimore, D. G. White, R. M. Miller, T. Hackett, J. Evans and D. Black.

SCHEDULES AND REGULATIONS.

Amendments to Schedules and Regulations published in the Government Gazette during the month include the following:—

Addition to Tenth Schedule.

Phenylbutazone (Butazolidin).

This drug and its preparations may now be sold only on the prescription of a medical practitioner, and prescriptions must be cancelled.

Additions to Eleventh Schedule.

Aureomycin, Chloramphenicol, Streptomycin, Dihydrostreptomycin, Terramycin.

Cortisone and other supra-renal cortical hormones either natural or synthetic and andreno-cortico-trophic hormone (A.C.T.H.).

The effect of this is to restrict sale of these drugs and their preparations to prescriptions of a medical practitioner, veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner (except for veterinary purposes in special circumstances which render it impracticable to obtain such prescriptions). Containers must be labelled "Unsuitable for human use" or "For veterinary use only" and with the name and address of the vendor.

Additions to Regulation 85 of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act are—

- (g) Preparations containing not more than 1 mg. per dose of Ergotamine.
- (h) Preparations containing not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ grain per dose of Barbituric Acid or any derivative of Barbituric Acid and not more than 1 mg. per dose of Ergotamine.
- (i) Preparations containing not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ grain per dose of Barbituric Acid or any derivative of Barbituric Acid and not less than a recognised dose of an official vitamin or of a natural or synthetic androgenic or oestrogenic hormone or of a medicinal glycerophosphate.

The effect of this amendment is to transfer these preparations from the cancellable to non-cancellable part of the Tenth Schedule. A prescription is still required in the first instance.

The following substances have been proclaimed drugs to which the Police Offences (Drugs) Act shall apply:—

- (1) Alpha-6-dimethylamino-4, 4-diphenyl-3-acetoxyheptane (alpha-acetylmethadol). Also known as Acetyl Methadol.
 - (2) Alpha-6-dimethylamino-4, 4-diphenyl-3-heptanol (alphamethadol). Also known as Methadol.
 - (3) Beta-6-dimethylamino-4, 4-diphenyl-acetoxyheptane (beta-acetylmethadol). Also known as Acetyl Methadol.
 - (4) 3-dimethylamino-1, 1-di-(2-thienyl)-1-butene.
 - (5) 3-ethylmethylamino-1, 1-di-(2-thienyl)-1-butene.
 - (6) 6-methyl-6-desoxymorphine.
 - (7) Methorphanin. Also known as Dromoran.
 - (8) Dihydromorphinone Hydrochloride (Dilaudid).
 - (9) Desomorphine.
- and the salts of any of these drugs and any preparations containing the drugs or their salts.

PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting

The Pharmaceutical Council of W.A. met at Perth Technical College on August 3, at 7.30 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. R. I. Cohen, A. A. Baxter, T. D.

The demand for Meds is growing!

Meds Advertising is Planned for you . . .

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Continued)

H. Allan, R. C. Dalby, G. H. Dallimore, H. D. Fitch, E. J. Nicholas and F. W. Avenell (Registrar).

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Mr. T. D. H. Allan presented to the Council a bronze mortar on a polished jarrah base and a polished jarrah pestle to be used as a President's gavel. Mr. Cohen suitably responded.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Cohen made reference to the recent death of Mr. G. R. Nicholas, and asked members to stand as a mark of respect.

Advice was received of the death of Mr. H. R. H. Brown, by strychnine poisoning, on March 28 last.

A letter was received from the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria, requesting comment on a proposal that applicants for registration under reciprocal agreements be required to pass an examination in Forensic Pharmacy as it applies to that State before being granted registration. The Council was not unanimous in its views on this proposal, but decided to recommend the production of a booklet giving necessary information concerning the sale of drugs and poisons in each State.

The following registrations were approved:—L. E. Knight (ex Victoria), A. F. Land (ex Victoria), R. G. Medlow (ex South Australia), and W. E. Wilson (final examination, W.A.).

Accounts totalling £185/19/4 were passed for payment, and the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

TASMANIA

PERSONAL and GENERAL

State News

Members desiring publication of personal items of interest are invited to write or telephone details to the Journal Correspondent in Tasmania, Miss M. L. Williams, 276 Argyle St., North Hobart (phone B 1010).

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Walter Rumney on his engagement to Miss Kay Holyman.

Mr. Pritchard, formerly of Western Australia, has left Hobart to take up a position at Queenstown.

To Mr. Don Ralph we offer our best wishes on his recent marriage.

Mr. Bester, of Hobart, is at the moment enjoying a mixture of business and pleasure in Sydney.

As we go to press, Mr. F. W. Browne and Mr. Fred Atherton, both of Launceston, are in hospital. We hope that they will soon be on the mend.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick, of Launceston, is now on her way to England for a holiday. A great many of us wish we could go, too!

Mrs. Margaret Pike is another lucky person on holidays. Margie is taking a fortnight's holiday in Melbourne.

Welcome to Tassie, Miss Edna Briggs! We understand that Miss Briggs has been working for some years at Boots, in England.

The Hobart Pharmacy students were all very thrilled with the success of their dance held in mid-August. Miss Anne Wilkes, the treasurer, was very proud of the financial result of the effort.

PHARMACY BOARD

Monthly Meeting

The Pharmacy Board of Tasmania met at 85 Elizabeth street, Hobart, on August 16, at 8 p.m.

Present.—Mr. H. H. Pearce (Chairman), Miss M. L. Williams, Messrs. I. B. McLeod, E. H. Shield, A. G. Gould, and the Registrar.

Apprentices.—Leslie M. Kossa: A letter was received from Mr. Kossa enclosing papers to establish his identity, which were considered satisfactory by members of the Board.

Finance.—A financial statement was presented showing a balance of £768/1/6. Accounts totalling £58/2/10 were passed for payment.

Death.—Advice was received from the Registrar-General that William Baynard Crooke died on April 17, 1954.

Final Examination.—Advice was received from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria that an extra paper on Forensic Pharmacy would be included in their Final Examination in December, 1955, and that consideration was being given to require persons applying for registration under the Reciprocal Agreement to pass this Examination in Forensic Pharmacy before being eligible for registration.

After considering this matter, the meeting decided that it was a subject for consideration by the Conference of Pharmacy Boards.

Poisons Act.—The Registrar reported that the Government Printer had destroyed all copies of his proclamations amending Schedules to the Poisons Act, and that there were no copies available. The Parliamentary Draftsman had suggested that a consolidation of the Schedules should be printed.

Members decided that a letter setting out the gazetted date for the proclamations should be forwarded to the Parliamentary Draftsman, with a request that he have arrangements made for the consolidation of the Schedules under the Poisons Act.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY

General Meeting

A general meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania was held at 47 Murray street, Hobart, on August 18, at 8 p.m.

Present.—Mr. A. P. Brammall (President), Mr. J. R. M. Driscoll (guest speaker) and 42 members.

Health Department Pamphlets.—The President reported that, following the discussion with Dr. Murray at the previous general meeting, Health Department pamphlets had been distributed to all master pharmacists, and a request had been received from the Minister for Health for each pharmacy to have a rack placed on the counter for distribution of such pamphlets to the public. This matter had been referred to the F.P.S. Guild, who had agreed that the members would co-operate with such a distribution.

Library.—A report was received from Dr. Burgin that a donation of 15/- had been received from Mr. Sherrington, and that books had been received from Mr. A. G. Crane.

Guest Speaker.—The President introduced Mr. J. R. M. Driscoll, who gave a very clear picture on the functioning of the Pharmacy Act and Regulations and also the Poisons Act and Regulations, which was of considerable value to the students and a much appreciated

TASMANIA (Continued)

refresher for the qualified members present. At the conclusion many questions were answered. The President thanked Mr. Driscoll for giving up his time to assist members with this talk.

Mr. Gould, in moving a vote of thanks, expressed a hope that a very complicated Poisons Act which he had seen grow over many years would be consolidated in the near future.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m., and supper was served by the women pharmacists.

THE GUILD

Executive Meeting

The Executive of the Tasmanian Branch of the Guild met at 73 Liverpool street, Hobart, on August 19, at 8 p.m.

Present.—Mr. G. M. Fleming (Chairman), Messrs. J. H. Gould, K. H. Jenkins, L. W. Palfreyman, A. G. Gould, D. R. Crisp, and the Secretary.

A.P.P. Mills.—Mr. Crisp reported on negotiations which had taken place between the Federal President, Federal Secretary, Federal Director of Public Relations and representatives of the A.P.P.M. Council with a view to drawing up an agreement for the supply of medical supplies to members of A.P.P.M. It was hoped that finality would be reached within a few days.

Travelling Expenses.—After discussing the costs of members attending to Guild matters as brought forward at the Campbell Town meeting, it was decided that the amount of 20 guineas be paid to Mr. G. S. Copeland to cover his expenses in connection with the A.P.P.M. case and other matters, and that a letter of appreciation be forwarded for his considerable assistance to the Guild.

Financial.—Accounts totalling £415/11/2 were passed for payment.

Health Department Pamphlets.—A letter was received from the Minister for Health asking if chemists would be agreeable to having a pamphlet rack on their counter, in which Public Health Department circulars could be placed for free distribution to customers.

The meeting decided that, provided the Health Department supplied the necessary racks, members would be agreeable to having them on their counters.

Rapido Range.—The Secretary of the Victorian Branch advised that an approach was being made to the new proprietors of the Rapido range for a 50 per cent. mark up on the full range. The meeting agreed that a similar request be made to Hatton & Laws.

Northern Sub-Branch.—Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Sub-Branch held on July 28 were received. It was noted that Mr. G. A. Calver had been appointed President, Messrs. N. G. Dineen and G. S. Copeland Vice-Presidents, and Mr. P. F. Holmes Secretary/Treasurer, with Mr. F. H. Cartledge as Auditor, and Mr. J. B. Warland Browne as Merchandising Officer.

Reckitt and Colman.—Details were received from the Federal Merchandising Manager of a suggestion put forward by the N.S.W. Branch for the parcel lots from this company being placed on a money basis. Members agreed with this suggestion.

Repatriation Script.—A reply was received from the Federal Secretary advising that an approach should be made to the Tasmanian Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation regarding the abbreviated wording on Repatriation Script. It was decided that a letter be forwarded accordingly.

Public Hospital Patients.—The matter of the supply of P.B.A. script to patients in public hospitals had been referred to Mr. Attiwill by one of our members, and this had been referred back to us to ascertain more details, as public hospitals were a matter of State Government.

After discussing the details it was decided that the President and Secretary should approach Dr. Edis, of the Tasmanian Public Health Department.

Annual Report.—A draft of the Annual Report was received and approved for distribution to members.

Office-Bearers.—The meeting decided that nominations for positions of President, two Vice-Presidents and Treasurer should close on September 2, and the ballot close on September 30.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

ABSORPTION BASES

The absorption bases used for the manufacture of water-in-oil creams may be compared to the labour-saving dessert powders which need only water and heating to transform them into delectable puddings. Simply by warming an absorption base and stirring in water, one can prepare an emollient cream of smooth texture and good stability. Other ingredients usually are required to adapt the emulsion for a specific purpose, but in general the formulas for absorption base creams are quite simple.

Absorption bases consist of powerful water-in-oil emulsifying agents blended with petroleum hydrocarbons. In the usual type, the emulsifying agent is the unsaponifiable fraction of lanolin consisting of a mixture of alcohols of high molecular weight. The main components of the mixture are cholesterol, ischolesterol and some straight chain alcohols. A 5% solution of the mixed alcohols of lanolin in mineral oil is capable of forming a stable emulsion with five or six times its weight in water. The esters of lanolin in themselves are not emulsifying agents, but combinations of the mixed alcohols with lanolin esters are very effective. An absorption base containing 2.5% of the mixed alcohols and 2.5% of lanolin esters is capable of emulsifying as much water as one containing 5% of the alcohols.

The substance known as ischolesterol is composed principally of lanosterol, and may also contain a small proportion of agnosterol. These materials are not sterols, as the names would imply, but triterpene alcohols. At a concentration of 3% in mineral oil, ischolesterol is a better emulsifier than cholesterol. However, at concentrations above 5% cholesterol becomes increasingly more effective than ischolesterol. There is a great difference between the two alcohol fractions in regard to their practical value in absorption bases. Whereas cholesterol is most effective in mixtures of emulsifiers, ischolesterol works best by itself. Lanolin esters add greatly to the emulsifying power of cholesterol, but actually cause a reduction in the emulsifying capacity of ischolesterol. Tiedt and Truter advised removing the ischolesterol from the unsaponifiable fraction of lanolin in order to obtain a concentrate of maximum emulsifying power. As cholesterol is soluble in hot methyl alcohol, and ischolesterol is not, the latter can be separated from the mixed lanolin alcohols without difficulty.

Tiedt and Truter separated the straight-chain alcohols of lanolin into a primary alcohol fraction and a secondary alcohol fraction. They found that the secondary alcohols showed considerably greater emulsifying power than cholesterol. The secondary alcohols of lanolin are α,β -glycols probably having more than 20 carbon atoms in the chain. It is evident that these diols are of great importance in absorption bases.—Schimmel Briefs, May, 1954.

P.D.L.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Churchill Building (1st floor), 61-63 Gawler Place, Adelaide (Branch Secretary, O. H. Walter).

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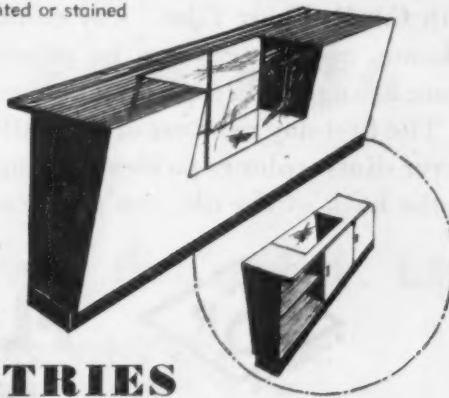


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¹Russek, H. I.; Urbach, K. F.; Doerner, A. A., and Zohman, B. L.: J.A.M.A. 153:207 (Sept. 19), 1953. ²Winsor, T., and Humphreys, P.: Angiology 3:1 (Feb.) 1952. ³Plotz, M.: New York State J.Med. 52:2012 (Aug. 15) 1952.

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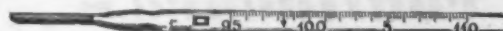
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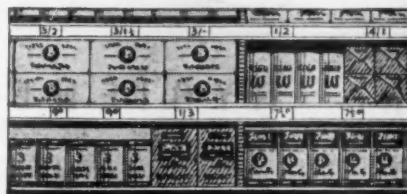
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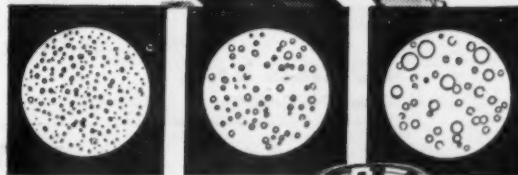
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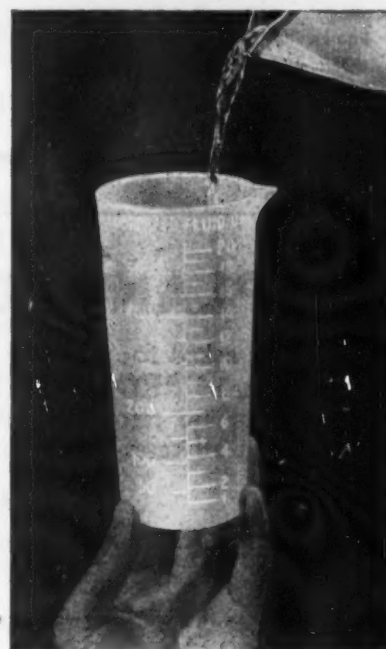
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